

**Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease
(Sale 124)**

Public Hearings

Barrow

1990

1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
2 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
3 ALASKA OCS REGION
4
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7 PUBLIC HEARING
8 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
9

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11 ALASKA OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF
12 BEAUFORT SEA PLANNING AREA
13 OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 124
14 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)
15
16
17

18 Held at:

19 BARROW, ALASKA

20 Tuesday, April 17, 1990
21 7:45 o'clock p.m.

22 North Slope Borough Conference Chambers
23
24

25 Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording
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1 BARROW, ALASKA - PUBLIC HEARING PROCEEDINGS

2
3 (Tape No. 1)

4 (On record at approximately 7:45 o'clock p.m.)

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Welcome to the public hearings
6 on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed
7 Oil and Gas Lease Sale 124 in the Beaufort Sea. I've got about
8 ten minutes worth of remarks here, so if you'll bear with me, I
9 would appreciate that.

10 My name is Bob Brock. I'm the Regional Supervisor for
11 the Leasing Environmental Office of the Alaska OCS Region of
12 Minerals Management Service in Alaska. Other panel members
13 include, on my immediate right, Irv Palmer, Deputy Regional
14 Director from our regional office in Anchorage; Barry Boudreau,
15 Deputy Regional Supervisor from the Office of Field Operations
16 in Anchorage with MMS; and John Schindler, whom most of you
17 know, on my immediate left. He is the Chief of the
18 Environmental Assessment Division, and his group is the one
19 that puts the Environmental Impact Statement together.

20 This is the first of four hearings that we'll be
21 conducting this week. The next one will be in Kaktovik
22 tomorrow, Nuiqsut the day after, and Anchorage on Friday. The
23 purpose of this hearing is to receive your comments of any
24 interested individuals, representatives of local government,
25 and organizations on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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1 for this proposed lease sale.

2 Before we start the -- receiving your comments, I'd
3 like to give you a little background on the leasing proposal
4 and the way we're studying it and the process we go through to
5 make the decisions concerning that proposed lease sale.
6 Federal oil and gas leasing began in the Beaufort Sea with the
7 sale -- the junk sale with the State of Alaska, called Sale BF,
8 in December 1979. Since then, we've had three additional
9 sales; October 1982, we held Sale 71; Sale 87 in August 1984;
10 and Sale 97 in March 1988. As a result of those four sales, we
11 have leased approximately three million acres of the offshore.
12 This represents about 6 percent of the planning area. And on
13 this map here, you can see the planning area; it's the entire
14 offshore area that's there, and what is leased are the
15 shaded-in blocks. Those blocks are a piece of water three
16 miles by three miles, fifty -- about 5,760 acres.

17 On those existing leases on those three million acres,
18 there have been 21 wells drilled, and on eight of those wells,
19 have been termed producible. However, no production has taken
20 place at this time; in fact, no production plans have been
21 received by our office. And those production plans have to be
22 approved before any production can take place. So there are
23 eight leases out of those previous three million acres that
24 were leased out there that contain a well that is classified as
25 producible, but there are no producing -- no production at this

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1 time.

2 To date, 34 environmental studies and 26 socio-
3 economic studies have been done exclusively for the Beaufort
4 Sea Planning Area by either MMS or MMS's contractors. In
5 addition, MMS has contracted 173 environmental and
6 socio-economic studies around the offshore in Alaska that are
7 applicable to the OCS -- the Beaufort Sea Planning Area. This
8 Draft EIS 124 covers an area of approximately 22 million
9 acres. It's the area shoreward of this dark line from about an
10 area about 60 miles west of Barrow to the Canadian line. It's
11 approximately -- it averages probably 70 miles wide. We
12 start -- the federal government starts their jurisdiction three
13 miles offshore and goes seaward of that; the first three miles
14 of the ocean are the State -- under State jurisdiction.

15 The lease sale as -- the proposed lease sale, at this
16 time, like I say, is 22 million acres. It can never be
17 expanded beyond that; it can only be reduced, if there's a
18 reason to reduce the size of that area. Just a second. I got
19 my -- MMS estimates that there's a 16-percent chance of finding
20 recoverable oil deposits in this area. The major goal of this
21 sale, in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
22 is to find out precisely what our domestic energy supplies are,
23 where they are located, how much they will cost to produce, and
24 allow them to be produced where it is possible to do so in an
25 environmentally safe manner.

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1 Oil discoveries here will reduce the reliance on
2 uncertain foreign sources as well as reduce the dollars and
3 jobs exported to other countries. Benefits accrue directly to
4 local individuals, state and local governments. This program
5 generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues each
6 year, and when discoveries are made, more millions are
7 generated through royalties on production and corporate taxes.
8 These monies are deposited directly in the Federal Treasury and
9 help support all appropriated programs that Congress
10 administers. This way, a large portion of the money returned
11 to individuals in one form or another is passed directly to
12 state and local governments as Congress sees fit. The Land and
13 Water Conservation Fund, which spent \$26 million right here in
14 Alaska last year received 85 percent of that money directly
15 from offshore oil and gas receipts.

16 This draft impact statement formally pulls together
17 two years of preparation. You have been a part of this process
18 from the early start and are being asked once again to review
19 the EIS and make your comments. Besides enforcing the OCS
20 Lands Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the
21 Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the
22 Clean Water Act, and the Occupational and Safety Act, MMS has a
23 host of regulations and operating rules that are designed to
24 make offshore operations safe and clean. There are too many
25 safeguards in place to go through them all today, but I would

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1 like to highlight some of those for you.

2 First, before any exploration activities can begin,
3 lessees have to prepare exploration plans. These exploration
4 plans are distributed for a very broad review and approval by
5 the federal government before they are approved. But that's
6 not the final word on exploration plans. The State's coastal
7 zone consistency certification is also necessary. National
8 pollution discharge elimination system permits are required
9 from the Environmental Protection Agency.

10 Next, an actual drilling permit is required. Once
11 drilling is underway, a Minerals Management Service instructor
12 will either be on the rig or nearby at all times. Then if a
13 discovery is made, the planning and approval process for -- on
14 production plans starts all over again, including an
15 environmental analysis and review. The federal government has
16 numerous requirements to ensure drilling and well safety. For
17 an example, we require oil spill control and clean-up equipment
18 to be in place and crews trained to use that equipment. We
19 require that companies use experienced and trained drilling
20 crews and that drillers attend certified schools to keep up to
21 date on well control methods. We require the use of best and
22 available -- the best available and safest technology,
23 third-party verification of drilling platforms, ice monitoring
24 programs for winter operations, and detailed site surveys for
25 any possible geo-hazards. The list goes on and on.

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1 To further reduce potential risks, many additional
2 mitigating measures may be added through the EIS process. For
3 an example, some of those that have been added in the past are
4 to establish a training program which must be attended at least
5 once a year by all on-site workers. One of those proposed
6 programs is to educate oil and gas workers about subsistence
7 practices and their importance. Another one, an example that
8 has been used in the past are requiring additional biological
9 survey if it is determined that those are needed.

10 The Environmental Impact Statement is a very important
11 element in the decision process. The law under which we
12 operate requires the Secretary of the Interior balance
13 decisions about national policy goals. These decisions
14 sometimes compete with each other. The law requires
15 considerable consultation with the Governor, balancing national
16 needs with the well-being of the local citizens. The
17 consultation process for this sale has been underway since
18 early 1988 when a call for information for Sale 124 was
19 published. It will continue up through the final decision,
20 which will be made sometime in early 1991, whether to proceed
21 with the sale or not.

22 Now, I'm sure you've heard enough from me. I will --
23 I wanted everyone here to understand that we don't take this
24 proposal lightly and that we approach all leasing decisions
25 very cautiously and carefully. I will call on today's speakers

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1 and -- yeah. I will call on today's speakers in the order of
2 which they registered, and if you haven't registered, Dick
3 Roberts sitting over here in the corner is the -- you should
4 register with him. If you signed in when you came in to
5 testify, well, that won't be necessary, but if you haven't and
6 you want to register, please register with him.

7 We would like you to -- when you do testify, we would
8 like you to speak -- when you speak, state your name, your
9 address, and your occupation and the organization or
10 agencies -- agency which you represent. We need this official
11 information for the transcript. We'd like you to keep your
12 comments to about 10 minutes. If you have prepared testimony,
13 please give copies of that testimony to our Court Reporter down
14 here in the yellow shirt, which will go into the official
15 record. If you have -- if you want to submit additional
16 information with your comments, that is fine too, and just give
17 them to the Court Reporter.

18 An official recording will be made. An official
19 recorder, Richard Carl here at the end of the table, will make
20 a verbatim transcript of the hearing. Everything that is
21 spoken while the hearing is in session will be recorded. To
22 assure a complete and accurate record, it is only -- it is
23 important that only one person speak at a time, and I would
24 like to ask everybody else to remain as quiet as possible.
25 Copies of the transcript are available through Executary

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1 Reporting, and you can either make arrangements with Richard
2 Carl here tonight, or you can call his office in Anchorage,
3 272-4084.

4 This is not an adversary proceeding. No one will be
5 placed under oath; however, we hope your presentations should
6 be relevant and supported by pertinent data because the purpose
7 of this hearing is to improve the quality of the EIS. Speakers
8 will not be questioned unless a member of the panel wishes to
9 have some facts clarified or obtain additional information. We
10 are most interested in understanding the views of all
11 interested parties about the draft environmental statement. To
12 help us with this process, we have a translator, Mabel
13 Panigeo. Did I say that right?

14 THE INTERPRETER: (Indicating.)

15 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Will be our translator
16 and will translate your testimony. If you feel more
17 comfortable in giving the testimony in your Native language,
18 she will translate it to English for us.

19 Remember, the comment period for this EIS closes May
20 8th, 1990. Until that time, MMS will accept written comments
21 and statements from anyone who would prefer to make a written
22 statement rather than an oral one. Your written statements
23 should be addressed as follows:

24 / / /

25 / / /

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Regional Director
Minerals Management Service
949 East 36th Avenue, Room 610
Anchorage, AK 99508
Attention: Dick Roberts

In order to be assured that those comments will appear in the final EIS, they have to be in by May 8th, 1990.

Now I would like Mabel to translate that and summarize that. I will, if -- since this is a hearing, we don't want to -- we would like to -- if you have any questions during the course of the hearing or before we start, we will go off the record, try to answer those questions, and then go ahead with the hearing. Remember, the hearing is for -- the purpose is for you to make your testimony, so we don't want to confuse that with the question and answer period. But we'll be glad to go off the record and answer any questions you have during -- before the hearing or after the hearing.

So Mabel, if you'd like to translate that, I'd appreciate it.

0829

(The Hearing Officer's opening statement translated into Inupiat by the interpreter at this time)

2071

HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you, Mabel. Is there

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1 anybody -- before we start -- you start giving testimony, is
2 there anybody that would like to go off the record and ask any
3 questions before we start?

4 THE INTERPRETER: (Translating into Inupiat.)

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yes, sir? Why don't you go
6 off the record here, and we'll.....

7 (Off record)

8 (On record)

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Back on record. And the first
10 testifier is the Honorable Donald Long, Mayor of Barrow. Yes.
11 Okay.

12 MR. SCHINDLER: You may have to get closer, Donald,
13 because I think those are two separate systems.

14 MR. LONG: Oh, they're two separate?

15 MR. SCHINDLER: Yeah.

16 MR. LONG: Oh.

17 (Pause)

18 MR. LONG: I'll need that too.

19 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF DONALD LONG

20 Good evening. Welcome to Barrow. You've come at a
21 time where we're -- you know, you don't have much of an
22 audience here. I feel that with everybody's out preparing to
23 go whaling -- like I should have been right now.

24 My name is Don Long, Mayor of the City of Barrow, and
25 also a Whaling Captain. I have -- would like to welcome you

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1 all to Barrow. I have before me a statement that I will
2 attempt to relay the feelings of the community in the strongest
3 possible terms that I can use. Also, I will proceed with
4 reading the statement. I will try to relate my statement in
5 comparison to the oil industry intruding or attempting to drill
6 on our agricultural land. For you to understand my objection,
7 you must understand our communal relationship with our ocean.

8 The very basis of our existence and living here in
9 Barrow is dependent upon the bounty of our ocean. Since we
10 cannot grow plants, the sea becomes the provider for our --
11 some of our nutrients. Since we cannot grow cotton or raise
12 sheep, the skins of those animals provide some of our
13 clothing. Since we cannot go -- all go to McDonald's for a Big
14 Mac, we go to our cellars to pull out our food. Since we do
15 not have any type of industry, the government came in to
16 support our existence with hospitals and schools, airport,
17 whatever.

18 You have scheduled this hearing at possibly the most
19 important days of the year, the preparation for whaling. If
20 you would walk or ride through our community, you will observe
21 approximately 40 whaling crews preparing to go after 15
22 allocated whales this year. Some of us work most of the year
23 to save money to participate in this activity. This type of
24 work is more strenuous, both physically and mentally, than most
25 other demanding jobs.

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1 Why should I bring this up? We sacrifice our
2 vacation, and some of us our jobs, to prepare ourselves for
3 this activity. We know this time of the year is the only time
4 to hunt these whales, during their northern migration. Any
5 disruption, whether it be oil spill or noise, would only
6 disturb the normal migration, and a frigid or a tense whale is
7 next to impossible to hunt. These whales will migrate through
8 Point Barrow; it's their instinct to migrate. Oil or no oil,
9 they will migrate through Barrow.

10 Now, are you willing to tell the Native hunters that
11 they have to sacrifice 12 years of limited hunting by -- that
12 had been limited by IWC, to have the oil companies stop the
13 hunt completely in the event of an oil spill that can possibly
14 exterminate the whales and some of these are our peers? We
15 know that the nation depends on oil and oil-related resources.
16 We also know that the detrimental effect of oil spill of Exxon
17 Valdez had on the fishing industry and the wildlife of that
18 area.

19 What I'm saying is that our hunting activities are not
20 industry related or commercial activities as they are in the
21 Prince William Sound. But instead, they are subsistence
22 activities that we depend on for our survival here in Barrow.
23 There's no monetary value; you cannot replace the whales with
24 the money or a job. My main concern is demonstrated by the
25 professional, semi-professional, or general laborers that come

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1 and go from this community. Out of 3,500 people that reside
2 here in Barrow, there may be only a dozen or so transients that
3 have lived in Barrow over 20 years.

4 My point is that most of the people who live and die
5 in Barrow were and are here because of the bounty of the sea.
6 Any attempt of offshore drilling against the objection of the
7 people without proven oil spill contingency plans could be
8 construed as a first step of genocide against the Inupiat
9 people of the North. The only basic -- the only and basic
10 reason why we live here is because of the ocean. Remember,
11 these whales and other animals will migrate; it's their
12 instinct, and Point Barrow is their only route.

13 I want to thank you very much.

14 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Any questions?

15 MR. LONG: Any questions?

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

17 MR. LONG: Thank you.

18 (Inaudible comment)

19 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Arnold Brower.

20 (Whispered conversation)

21 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF ARNOLD BROWER, JR.

22 Welcome to Barrow. My name is Arnold Brower, Jr.
23 Just read my statement first, and then I want to quote some of
24 your literature. And I should welcome the remarks and the
25 literature in the -- from this text from the "MMS In

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1 Perspective." So I guess one of your papers, in it, it states
2 that what they -- what you men did, from the Department of
3 Interior, is to make OCS resources available especially to meet
4 the needs and energy needs; protect human, marine, and coastal
5 environments; and ensure that state and local governments have
6 the timely access to information and opportunities to
7 participate in OCSEA's (ph) planning and policy
8 decision-making. That is -- I feel glad that this was in your
9 literature and in my position paper regarding the offshore
10 leases in the Beaufort Sea.

11 For the record, my name is Arnold Brower, Jr., from
12 Barrow, Alaska 99723, for 42 years now. Since my childhood, I
13 have hunted seals, walrus, caribou, whales, fish, and our --
14 all arctic waterfowls. During the summer and fall, I have
15 followed my family to various hunting camps till school starts,
16 and this in my childhood. On many occasions, we barely have
17 room in the sailboat of my father, perhaps due to so many of
18 us; however, our father has never let us be in need of food.
19 And these times I'm counting up, especially of this time,
20 because this is the time in the summer months when we are free
21 from school that we are taken hunting to catch our nutritional
22 need for the winter.

23 During this life experience, I have learned the traits
24 of hunting, of hunting many various subsistence species on
25 which we have thrived on for nourishment, not only hunting

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1 them, but also learn the traits of animals in their behavioral
2 patterns. This is qualified by the abundance catches of us
3 that bring game home successfully after a good subsistence
4 hunt. One of these are the traits of fishes in the rivers and
5 lagoons, at that -- at what particular time to net them or
6 catch them. This is predominant in the Elson Lagoon, Ikpiuk
7 River, and the Teshekpuk Lake areas and the coastline.

8 In the fall, bowhead whales begin their migration
9 westward towards the Chukchi and continue further towards the
10 Bering Sea. These whales are sensitive to loud noises.
11 However, in this paper, I particularly want to focus on the
12 bowhead whales. These are protected species under the Marine
13 Mammal Protection Act. Although there are provisional language
14 of incidental taking, it is necessary to receive the
15 concurrence of the Eskimo whalers to do this. The federal
16 government has to trust responsibility to the Inupiat people to
17 see that their needs are met.

18 Continued operations of offshore operations by the oil
19 and gas industry harrasses the Inupiat whalers from their
20 subsistence catch limits. Any accidents of oil spill would
21 have a devastating impact to the bowhead population if
22 encountered by a large migrating school that happens to want to
23 pass through their natural migratory pattern and time it needs
24 to move itself from the Beaufort Sea. Since we have not seen
25 any form of assurance of cleanup capability by the industry, no

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1 leases should be activate- -- no leases should be resolved --
2 wait a minute -- activated for exploration until this has been
3 resolved. If it is not resolved, the industry and the federal
4 government will finally initiate a plan that will not work
5 under harsh arctic environmental conditions because you would
6 finally, perhaps, like they did in Valdez area that initiates
7 some kind of program that has not been tested here.

8 In view of that, other subsistence resources of the
9 Inupiat people will also suffer. This could create a severe
10 hardship to the subsistence economy of the Inupiat Eskimos that
11 live here in the arctic on the coast of the Arctic Ocean.
12 There needs to be training of the Arctic residents for oil
13 spill containment programs in each village, from Kaktovik to
14 Point Hope. You spoke of training oil and gas industry
15 employees. I think that should not be limited because they
16 have their own limitations of knowledge to this Arctic harsh --
17 to these harsh environments that we are so used to. This
18 program has to belong to the communities and remain there for
19 the benefit of the local residents that depend on the sea for
20 livelihood.

21 Again, I want to go on record to oppose the offshore
22 drilling without a safe oil spill contingency program and a
23 provisional schedule of the migratory bowheads' pass either at
24 Point Barrow or Point Franklin on the Chukchi Sea in the fall
25 migration each year, also a communication program that will

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1 activate the oil spill contingency program. With declining
2 revenues, the dependence of our subsistence resources, it is
3 even more critical now and in time to come. These are in our
4 best interests as local residents of the Arctic coastal
5 communities.

6 I'm a resident of the North Slope Borough, a tribal
7 member of the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, a regional
8 tribal government organized under the Indian Self-Determination
9 Act of 1934. I am a permanent resident of the city of Barrow
10 and the Native village of Barrow. I'm also a member of the
11 Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission and the Barrow Whaling
12 Association. I am a member of the Barrow Volunteer Search and
13 Rescue Organization, a member of the Presbyterian Church, a
14 veteran of the United States Armed Forces, member of the
15 Veteran of Foreign Wars Post 9890. I'm also an employee of the
16 North Slope Borough as Special Assistant to the Mayor.

17 I'd like to make some concluding remarks in hearing
18 and reviewing some of your pamphlets. In the event that oil
19 spills occur and cleanup is done on our beaches, using
20 dispersants on the beach to clean up the -- will have a
21 detrimental impact to other living marine resources. So there
22 needs to be an exploration of -- and research to clean up these
23 type of beaches with non-toxic dispersants so that these little
24 fish eggs that are trying to grow -- I'm especially going to
25 name one that has been depleting since the encroachment of

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1 offshore activity, one, the -- namely, the Arctic cisco (ph),
2 which is still caught, barely caught, in Barrow since that --
3 since the beginning of oil industry, offshore industry.

4 I'm very adamant about this because I feel that there
5 has been a lack of care in making stipulations because of
6 wanting to receive the dollars for the benefit of the
7 departments of the United States, and I think that the United
8 States must view all of its environmental impact statements so
9 that these dispersants do not kill off the resources that we
10 depend upon on our coastlines off Alaska and the rest of the
11 United States. Using toxic dispersants to clean up our beaches
12 will further endanger all of the other marine resources.

13 And I'm very glad to be here and that you have come so
14 that I can submit my concerns and my statements before you.

15 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Excuse me. Did you say that
16 the Arctic cisco was down? Is that what -- I missed what you
17 said about the Arctic cisco catch.

18 MR. BROWER: A decline of catch limits of Arctic cisco
19 has been very predominant. It's been so evident that I keep
20 bringing it up at these hearings, that they are doing
21 investigations, research related to this west stock (sic) for
22 instance, those type of things. And that's why I'm speaking
23 and, namely, on that one critical issue.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Thank you. That's --
25 any other questions. Barry?

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1 MR. BOUDREAU: Yes. Arnold?

2 MR. BROWER: Yes, sir.

3 MR. BOUDREAU: You made a statement earlier that I was
4 uncertain what you were referring to, and it had to do with oil
5 spill contingency planning.....

6 MR. BROWER: Yes.

7 MR. BOUDREAU:and provisional schedules of
8 activities by lessees. Could you clarify that?

9 MR. BROWER: Yes. I'm glad you mentioned that. I did
10 want to expound on that a little bit. For instance, in the
11 migration of the bowhead whales, that if there is no limit and
12 these things are not adhered to for allowing the natural
13 migration of the bowhead whale, it can cause it to alter or
14 stop by certain activities, influx, especially influx of
15 activity offshore. And the -- if they are stopped like that
16 for a course of a week for instance, and the Arctic flows and
17 it freezes fast, and those are some of the things that I am
18 concerned about so that these animals, these endangered species
19 be allowed to go down to their westward migration down south
20 before they are trapped in the Arctic. I'm count- --
21 especially like the ones that were trapped there, the gray
22 whales there. Unfortunately, those -- that issue has been
23 demonstrated once.

24 MR. PALMER: Arnold, I wonder if you've had the
25 occasion to ask the lessees offshore what they think about
conducting oil spill procedure cleanup activities in the

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1 villages.

2 MR. BROWER: I have not discussed that too much. I
3 think this is one of my first statements here because I have
4 learned that they are trying to put these training programs in
5 there. But I would like to see that the permanent people,
6 permanent residents people be here, that they learn and become
7 a part of the cleanup activities in the event. But this is
8 very important because people, Arctic residents, from here are
9 more knowledgeable of the adverse impacts and the adverse
10 weather conditions, sea ice conditions, here more than they do
11 from Texas.

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Good point. Thank you.

13 (Whispered comment)

14 MR. BROWER: For the record, I wanted -- like a
15 transcript of these hearings, if I may.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Yeah. Would you make
17 arrangements with him before he leaves so he gets your name and
18 address and -- on how to do that? Warren, you're next.

19 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF WARREN MATUMEAK

20 Thank you, Mr. Brock. My name is Warren Matumeak.
21 I'm the Land Management Administrator for the North Slope
22 Borough and also Director of Land Department. I am going to
23 speak by starting out by saying, Welcome to my land, our land.
24 Welcome to our ocean. We have lived off the ocean for many
25 years, as you probably well know, and up to now, we are very,

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1 very uncomfortable with the way things are happening out there,
2 especially after Valdez. So the comments I'm going to make
3 will be very critical here.

4 The MMS, in my view, should not lease anything beyond
5 the land-fast ice area because the floating structures that are
6 used out there poses a lot of risk, and if there is a blow-out
7 from one of those floating structures, let's say if the
8 blow-out occurs in October, at freezing time, the relief well
9 would not take place at that time because it is freezing. And
10 so anything blowing out would continue all through the winter
11 until the next drilling season. Now, that poses a very grave
12 risk, and it would damage a lot of our subsistence animals.

13 We have learned from the Valdez spill that industry
14 can spend millions and millions and millions of dollars trying
15 to clean up oil; they also tried to clean up the animals that
16 were oiled, and a lot of them, as you know, died from that
17 spill. But there is no indication of one replacing even one
18 dead animal. Now, the animals that we use up here are very
19 important to us. We cannot survive without that oil. The oil
20 I'm talking about is the seal oil, the whale oil, the oogaluk
21 (sic) oil, and the walrus and the beluga oil that we use on our
22 tables.

23 So I also want to state that the MMS should not allow
24 any drilling with floating structures when there is a plan to
25 use a conical-shaped bottom founded structure which can be used

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1 in deeper waters. Global Marine has that plan, and most of the
2 industry knew about it, and I guess you people know about it.
3 The two safest rigs, drilling platforms, that are being used up
4 here are the CIDS, what we call CIDS, and the SSDC. These are
5 bottom founded structures, and that is into gravel islands and
6 ice islands. The blow-out preventor is on top, and if there is
7 a blow-out after freeze-up, the oil would be contained on top
8 without oil going away and -- with the current and stuff like
9 that. And it can be saved; it can be used. But if there's a
10 blow-out out in the ice-infested waters, the industry nor MMS,
11 or anybody, have the capability of cleaning spilled oil, as
12 demonstrated in the Valdez spill.

13 And as you know, there are lots of spills all over the
14 world and this happens almost daily, not only offshore but
15 inland and where the oil tanks have been, underground storage
16 tanks have been corroding, and there have been a lot of
17 pollutions all over the world. Up here, we have been very
18 lucky, you know, and we'd like to keep our waters clean because
19 if the oil industry leave, we still would like our children,
20 our grandchildren to subsist out of our waters and out of our
21 land.

22 It is -- I guess it is time to think about ANWR, which
23 is -- which would be much safer to drill for oil over there;
24 it's much safer. But I would like to state that anything
25 outside of the land-fast area be deleted until the MMS and the

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1 industry come up with a drilling structure that can safely
2 drill beyond the land-fast area. You are endangering our
3 future. You are sort of playing around with our life. This
4 water is very important to us. Our parents have used it, we've
5 used it; we're teaching our children, our grandchildren to use
6 it, but the industry is posing a great risk because MMS is
7 allowing them to drill, you know, from structures that are not
8 fool-proof.

9 And you made an excuse; you're saying that you did
10 everything possible to make the risk less by putting people on
11 the rig or having a lot of people review the oil spill
12 contingency plan. These things cannot stop a blow-out; a
13 blow-out will come in accidentally or the equipment failure.
14 These reviews will not do it. The person on the ship will not
15 prevent it. It's the accident by a person or the failure of
16 the equipment, and with the ice conditions up here, a
17 200-barrel-a day -- 200,000-barrel-a-day blow-out will -- if it
18 continues over the winter, will be a devastating -- will have
19 devastating effect to our food, food chain.

20 And also frown at using dispersants because it only
21 turns transfer of that dispersant into the water, which would
22 then go into the ecosystem that the larger animals eat and then
23 it could pass on to us. You know, these things are going to be
24 done without having a full knowledge of what effect it will
25 have on human consumption, or at least these are -- these fears

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1 are real to me.

2 And I would like to say some of this stuff in my
3 Native language because of our listeners does not all
4 understand English language.

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Go ahead.

6 MR. MATUMEAK: Is that okay?

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Sure.

8 MR. MATUMEAK: (Repeating his statement in Inupiat.)
9 Thank you for allowing me to speak at this public hearing.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Any questions?

11 (No response)

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Eugene Brower.

13 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF EUGENE BROWER

14 Hello, John. Welcome home. I'll talk in Eskimo and
15 you can interpret for me into English. It's been some years.
16 I will first speak in Eskimo, then I will say what I have to
17 say in English.

18 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: That's fine.

19 MR. EUGENE BROWER: (Statement in Inupiat.)

20 Good evening, gentlemen. My name is Eugene Brower,
21 President of the Barrow Whaling Captains Association, which has
22 47 whaling captains and over 500 crew members here in this --
23 here in Barrow. I'm here to oppose your Lease Sale 124. And
24 this area has an area which is where we, the residents of
25 Barrow, use to hunt our wildlife from, our livelihood.

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1 And I'm going to be bringing some issues out, and
2 maybe questions which could be like a question to you, one of
3 them is which, Why are you having lease sales while the
4 incidental take permit issue, it has not been resolved yet?
5 Are they not still pending? It has been resolved on an
6 incidental take permit request by the district? While that is
7 pending, I think there should be no lease sales on your federal
8 lands out there.

9 And also, what guarantees do we have on the impacts
10 from the drilling platforms or the ships or the contaminants
11 that are going to be coming from these drilling vessels or
12 these platforms, i.e, the drilling width, oil? Those are going
13 to happen, and there's -- if anybody says that they -- it
14 doesn't happen, I don't know who they're trying to pull the
15 wool over. But my biggest question is, What happens if the
16 drilling mud and the other contaminants that are -- and where
17 are they stored if they are removed from these sites? Are they
18 drilling a hole down in the ground and blowing them into the
19 ground? If so, is that area safe, or are they seeping
20 through? Those questions have never been answered, and nobody
21 has brought these up before you, if I'm not mistaken, up here.

22 What about the multi-year ice? We haven't seen the --
23 any of the multi-year ice up here for quite a few years. About
24 three or four years ago, United States super-icebreaker, the
25 Polar Star, couldn't break its way through the Point out

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1 there. We were watching it ramming that ice day in, day out,
2 and it couldn't even make a headway. What's going to happen
3 when that ice comes around in this sale area you're proposing
4 to sell? What kind of guarantees are we going to have? That
5 multi-year ice is heavy, and they don't break easy, much to the
6 embarrassment of our federal government, our supertanker
7 couldn't even penetrate even how many feet into that ice?
8 That's one of the things that should be looked at.

9 Also, what is your proposed drilling window once you
10 have your lease sale? Is it going to be year-around or what?
11 And also, you talk about the oil industry saying that they have
12 the know-how and the technology to clean an oil spill. I've
13 never seen it work up here. Have they found a way to do it
14 underneath the ice, underneath the pressure ridges, where it's
15 going to go? This ice is constantly moving, either northeast
16 or southwest depending on the current up here. To this day, I
17 don't think the industry has, or the federal government has,
18 the technology to clean oil underneath our polar cap up here.

19 In closing, I, as the President of the Whaling
20 Captains, oppose your Lease Sale 124. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

22 MR. EUGENE BROWER: Any questions?

23 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Any questions?

24 (No response)

25 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

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1 (Applause)

2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Tom.

3 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF TOM LOHMAN

4 Hi. Once again, welcome to Barrow. My name is Tom
5 Lohman. I work for the North Slope Borough Law Department. My
6 comments are going to be brief; the previous speakers, Mayor
7 Long, Arnold, Warren, and just now Eugene have made some
8 extremely good points that I hope you respond to in writing and
9 very specifically, and they've made those points more
10 eloquently, I think, than I could make them. The Borough is
11 now preparing detailed comments which we will submit by the
12 deadline so that my comments will be fairly general this
13 evening and focus primarily on the oil spill risks that you've
14 heard every speaker talk about.

15 Very flatly, the North Slope Borough does not believe
16 that the industry has the capability to clean up oil in good
17 environmental conditions and, much less, in the difficult
18 environmental conditions which are the norm up here. I've got
19 right here a copy of the report that was prepared by the Alaska
20 Oil Spill Commission focusing on the Exxon Valdez spill. It
21 obviously does not talk too extensively about spills in Arctic
22 regions, but I'd like to read just a couple of things into the
23 record that it does say, referring to Arctic regions.

24 Talking about regional oil spill risks -- and this is
25 something that Arnold brought up -- you need to talk about oil

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1 spill risks in our area, not oil spill risks or oil spill
2 scenarios, or models, that have been formulated in other
3 environments. The report says, and I quote:

4 "The picture is bleak for remote areas. An effective
5 reponse effort for a large spill from a drill ship or
6 a tanker accident very far from Prudhoe Bay or Barrow
7 would be extremely difficult. If the drill ship or
8 tanker were saved, the oil spill would probably be
9 uncontainable by that time. Sacrificing the vessel by
10 burning is the only option offered by most who have
11 experience in the Arctic."

12 You're looking at a roomful of people here who have
13 more experience in the Arctic than anybody that has prepared
14 these reports, and these people have found these conclusions.
15 In one more area, and this'll be the last thing I'll read, it
16 says in the report, on page 144:

17 "Development of Arctic oil discoveries dependent on
18 maritime transportation should await the preparation
19 of approved systems of oil transportation using
20 experience gained from the Trans Alaska Pipeline
21 System."

22 In your preferred scenario, and in the scenarios
23 developed in the EIS, there are amazing lengths of subsea
24 pipelines discussed, several hundres of miles of subsea
25 pipelines which are supposed to be laid. We have very little

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1 confidence that this can be done either in the construction
2 phase so as not to disturb the subsistence activities or the
3 resources, but once those things are in, we don't have the
4 confidence that they can be operated safely. And if you have a
5 spill or a leak or a break in the pipe during the winter, as
6 Warren said, you are not going to be able to address it until
7 the following open-water season. You're going to have water --
8 you're going to have oil under the ice, which is going to
9 spread a very long way; you are going to have springtime
10 activities which are critical to this community and the
11 communities in the Beaufort Sea affected very severely.

12 I hope you will address some of the concerns and some
13 of the comments and the recommendations made by this report in
14 your final EIS.

15 Finally, just one comment. Where -- we've heard it
16 before, that this is just a lease sale, that a lot of these
17 problems can be addressed later at the plan of operations
18 stage. It has been my experience in my brief time here, and
19 talking to people like Warren who have been around a lot
20 longer, that this is really the first step on a very slippery
21 downhill run toward lease production, lease tract development,
22 that once you take that first step on that greasy downhill
23 path, it's a lot harder to stop. And as Eugene just said, Why
24 are we starting off on that first step when we don't know how
25 we're going to deal with problems if they develop later on?

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1 And that, very basically, as every speaker has said, is the
2 Borough's basic position.

3 You've got safer alternatives onshore; we understand
4 that you cannot lease areas which have not been opened by
5 Congress. As Eugene said, we don't think you should be leasing
6 if you can't deal with that final step in a safe manner. And
7 we understand that oil development has provided benefits to the
8 North Slope, and we hope it will continue to do so, but in the
9 areas that are most sensitive to the livelihood, the welfare,
10 the continued cultural viability of these people, who, as
11 Arnold said, live and die here, we don't think you should be
12 operating out there in an environment that is difficult at best
13 and in which you cannot assure these people that you can do it
14 safely.

15 And thank you very much.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Any questions?

17 (No response)

18 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you, Tom. Robert?

19 (Whispered comments)

20 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Tom.

21 MR. LOHMAN: Do you have a question?

22 (Whispered conversation)

23 MR. AIKEN: Good to see you again, John.

24 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Bradley (sic).

25 / / /

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF ROBERT AIKEN

1
2 I just want to make a few comments. I know my grandpa
3 used to tell me that your proposed lease on your proposed
4 drilling area was very unstable. My grandpa used to tell me
5 that when you -- whenever you're going out seal hunting, never
6 go out on this side when the ice is going with the current, and
7 never go near the Point. My grandpa taught me a lot of things
8 and handed down a lot of things to me and to my uncles and my
9 brothers. They tell us that where you're going to drill is a
10 very unsafe area to hunt or take a boat ride on 'cause it's --
11 the current is very fast going from Beard Bay towards the
12 Point. And at the same time, the wind would be blowing from
13 the west, were bringing all that ice from the east, and when
14 they met together, it -- that force would be so hard and so
15 fast, it would take anything in its path.

16 Like Eugene said, I was watching that icebreaker
17 trying to rescue another icebreaker; there was two of them.
18 There was one big one trying to get to that smaller one, and he
19 was trying to make a trail right through that -- you know, a
20 real ice pack, that big ice floe. Let me tell you something:
21 When that -- when a big ice floe comes to shore, when it hits
22 Beard Bay, it makes a circle all the way up and down the
23 coast. When it runs aground, it piles up first and it keeps
24 moving; it doesn't stop. It makes a spiral turn all the way up
25 the coast, and it takes anything in its path.

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1 I am very opposed to this. My grandpa, if he was
2 alive, he'd back me up, and he'd tell you one thing or two.
3 I'm sure I'm talking about our ancestors' wisdom when I say
4 I've seen this happen. I've seen boats wrecked; I've seen
5 ships stopped. And I've seen a lot of things, what he was
6 talking about, and it's very true. We are dealing with very
7 hard-packed ice that we never seen for how many years now.
8 It's bound to come in sooner or later, and I hope it don't come
9 in when you start drilling 'cause it's going to take that
10 floating thing right up -- way up, way past the Point, and it's
11 going to take it down, probably take it out there, the North
12 Pole. 'Cause a lot of people, when they get lost out on the
13 ice, when that ice floe comes through here, it don't stay here,
14 it goes way out past the Point. And it's been known to happen
15 when the ice comes together from the Beaufort Sea to the
16 Chukchi Sea, when that -- when they come crashing together, and
17 nothing going to stop them. All you'll see is just big piles
18 of ice.

19 I'm very opposed to this lease sale, and like they
20 say, you're dealing with our lives. We're very serious about
21 this, and it's -- this is our garden out there. We live off
22 it; we still do. And oil revenues, like they're going down,
23 one of these days we expect to just go back out there and live
24 just the way we did just before they found oil. And I'm very
25 opposed to this; I'm sure a lot of people are too, not only

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1 (lapsed into Inupiat.)

2 (Continuing in Inupiat.)

3 I want to thank you for giving me this time, and I
4 hope you think about what we're saying, not just take it upon
5 your heads. Just put it somewhere in your hearts, if you'll
6 understand. This is our life you're dealing with. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Mr. Leavitt.

8 (Whispered comments)

9 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF DANIEL LEAVITT

10 (Mr. Leavitt's testimony presented in Inupiat,
11 translated into English by the Interpreter)

12 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

13 THE INTERPRETER: I want to thank you for this
14 opportunity, and I want to let you know that this is the first
15 time I have seen that sign where it says that only those that
16 are to give testimony are to sign up.

17 THE INTERPRETER: My name is Daniel Leavitt.

18 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER: I have never been to school.

20 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: But the only livelihood I know of is
22 how to hunt the Inupiat way.

23 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

24 THE INTERPRETER: And my concern at the moment is
25 about the sea mammals that live out in the sea and about the

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1 sea currents that none of us can handle or can stop if they
2 occur.

3 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

4 THE INTERPRETER: Should.....

5 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER:there be a blow-out in any of
7 the oil rigs.....

8 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

9 THE INTERPRETER:I am very concerned on how
10 much -- how -- what should be done on how to stop should there
11 be a -- to stop the blow-out if it should happen.....

12 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

13 THE INTERPRETER:because I have seen in my
14 life.....

15 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

16 THE INTERPRETER:there is what we call the
17 pitch. There was a place not too far from here that has some
18 oil in it, and the sea beach has -- has turned out to be pitch.

19 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

20 THE INTERPRETER: There is -- I never knew of a time
21 when they were moving around, but I do know that when animals,
22 any kind of animal, get their (indiscernible) always caught in
23 its mire.

24 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: And should there be a blow-out in

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1 one of the oil rigs, it is very possible that much of the oil
2 will spread out in the water before it goes out in the open air.

3 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

4 THE INTERPRETER: What you are working on is very
5 difficult even for us to speak about and hear in our community.

6 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

7 THE INTERPRETER: Of course, we understand that you
8 want to help us in some way.

9 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER: Probably in money?

11 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

12 THE INTERPRETER: We believe that you are trying to
13 help us.

14 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: But I am beginning to understand
16 that you're getting really well paid for what you are doing,
17 and that is what drives you to keep on going even with all this
18 opposition.

19 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat).....

20 (Off record)

21 (Tape Change - Tape No. 2)

22 (On record)

23 THE INTERPRETER: You -- you -- you have -- you have
24 no way but to just go ahead and do it.

25 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

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1 THE INTERPRETER: But me, as I have lived in my
2 Inupiat way of livelihood, that's the only -- that's the only
3 thing that drives me on is to get something for my family to
4 fill up their stomachs from what -- from what I catch.

5 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: And if I should go out hunting,
7 leaving my family with nothing to eat, and if I should catch
8 something from the sea, like a sea mammal that has been taken
9 in the oil spill and it has been contaminated from this oil
10 spill, this thing that I caught to feed my family, when all the
11 while when I left them, there was nothing in the house for them
12 to eat, and that's very bad. It really hurts me even to think
13 about it.

14 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: I am one of the whaling captains.....

16 MR. LEAVITT: For 57 years.

17 THE INTERPRETER:for 57 years.

18 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER: I catch a whale every now and then,
20 not all the time but every now and then.....

21 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

22 THE INTERPRETER:and I'm always grateful. In
23 fact, I'm always happy when I know for a fact there -- that
24 there is some meat in the ice cellar for my family.

25 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

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1 THE INTERPRETER: And from knowing that, my body is
2 rested when I know for a fact that my family has something to
3 eat.

4 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

5 THE INTERPRETER: We who live in this community, in
6 this environment, do not have anything going for us, and that
7 is one of the reasons why life in this climate is so harsh.

8 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

9 THE INTERPRETER: And the only thing that we depend on
10 livelihood is the sea mammal, which we catch from the ocean, be
11 it -- be it walrus, be it oogaluk (ph), the bearded seal, be
12 it -- be it seal, the whale, whatever, that sea is our garden.

13 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER: And I also know how you go about in
15 your everyday life.

16 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

17 THE INTERPRETER: There are many of you.....

18 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER:live in real comfortable homes,
20 and it's not anything like what we have here in Barrow.....

21 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

22 THE INTERPRETER:but we really got to have a
23 house to live in.

24 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: Nor can we afford to go to a hotel

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1 to spend the night.....

2 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

3 THE INTERPRETER:because money doesn't force
4 us -- doesn't drive us on to live that way.

5 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: It's not because I'm saying this
7 because I spite you, but that's not how it is.

8 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

9 THE INTERPRETER: It's that from our hearts, we love
10 you, but the problem is, because all our livelihood comes from
11 the sea, the ocean; therefore, we would like to keep it as it
12 is, and that is what drives us to say all these things that
13 would endanger our livelihood.

14 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: Maybe if I had had any education at
16 all, my lifestyle would be some -- something different.

17 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

18 THE INTERPRETER: It would be far different from --
19 from what I have now.

20 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: Maybe if -- if I walked past an
22 animal that's very edible to eat, maybe I wouldn't even bother
23 to catch it.

24 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: I would -- I would live that way.

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1 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
2 THE INTERPRETER: Maybe I'd be glad to be able to see,
3 to look on, a sea mammal like that.
4 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
5 THE INTERPRETER: And not too long ago, from the
6 caribou family, my -- my sons have been killing off some
7 caribou that has been sick.
8 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
9 THE INTERPRETER: Because of these radios that have
10 been attached right around the neck of the caribou, that has
11 bothered them so much that they're -- they haven't been able to
12 eat like they should, and therefore, they die.
13 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
14 THE INTERPRETER: And when we confront the officials
15 about these, maybe we have -- maybe they just laugh behind our
16 backs about these conditions that these animals are in.
17 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
18 THE INTERPRETER: I have a lot to say about how the
19 Inupiat live, but I do know there are some -- there are many
20 people who have something to say about what life is like.
21 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
22 THE INTERPRETER: I have not seen what and how a white
23 man lives ever since I was 18.
24 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
25 THE INTERPRETER: And so I left home and then went out

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1 of town just to find out what and how the white man lives.
2 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
3 THE INTERPRETER: There was no way that I could find a
4 place to live in.
5 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
6 THE INTERPRETER: There was no one to offer me, to
7 welcome me into their home, so I could live with them.
8 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
9 THE INTERPRETER: And so there was somebody there;
10 somebody was available to take me to a hotel at the time.
11 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
12 THE INTERPRETER: But then he also commented and told
13 me, made it plain, that I should pay for my room at least
14 dollar a night.
15 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
16 THE INTERPRETER: And in that hotel room the next
17 morning, there was no food available in that room; I had to go
18 someplace else to find something to eat.
19 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
20 THE INTERPRETER: And there was somebody else around
21 that took me to a restaurant.
22 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)
23 THE INTERPRETER: There was no way that I could order,
24 even when I got to the restaurant.
25 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

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1 THE INTERPRETER: Therefore, from my life as an
2 Inupiat, I am very much opposed to all these sales because I
3 have seen with my own eyes what the oil spill did to all the
4 sea mammals that were in the ocean.

5 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: And prior to this meeting, I have --
7 I have listened to what the oil companies -- companies have to
8 say.....

9 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER:that it is not our problem.
11 We're not -- we have nothing to do with this oil that has
12 spread around the water and in the ice.

13 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER: If I understood them correctly, I --
15 I understood them to say that the cleanup job is for the
16 federal government.

17 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

18 THE INTERPRETER: In these meetings, you have always
19 said that all precautions have been taken to take care of any
20 blow-out, but I have not seen a demonstration on how it can be
21 done.

22 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

23 THE INTERPRETER: I may not have too long to live or
24 to hunt, but I am opposing this lease sale because I have some
25 children and some grandchildren, and I would rather that they

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1 hunted from the sea. But the sad part is that they do not --
2 they do not know too much about the Inupiat way of life that I
3 have known and how -- how it is as I have known it.

4 MR. LEAVITT: (In Inupiat)

5 THE INTERPRETER: And I want to thank you that you
6 have given me this opportunity, and there may be others that
7 have something to say about their livelihood and the Inupiat
8 way of life.

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. We'll take a short
10 10-minute break and then start in with the next speaker.

11 (In recess for a 10-minute break)

12 (On record)

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We'll start with Joash.

14 THE INTERPRETER: You can hear him from here; right?

15 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yes.

16 THE INTERPRETER: Okay.

17 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF JOASH TUCKLE

18 My name is Joash Tuckle. I need the interpreter
19 (inaudible).

20 (Whispered comments)

21 (Mr. Tuckle's testimony presented in Inupiat,
22 translated into English by the Interpreter)

23 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

24 THE INTERPRETER: As I was listening to the radio, I
25 decided to come here.

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1 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

2 THE INTERPRETER: If I should start off saying that
3 I -- that I'm with this company, or work for this company, it
4 would take all night, but right now, I want to say that I am
5 one of the whaling captains.

6 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

7 THE INTERPRETER: I am very much opposed to this -- to
8 this sale because from generations past, we have had this
9 custom of passing down our -- to our younger generation how
10 hunting should be done this way and that, and now that they
11 have learned, it is -- I am here to speak about it, that I am
12 opposed and, therefore, would rather that there was no sale at
13 all.

14 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: Our forefathers have taught us; they
16 do not know any part of the white man's way of life, but that
17 they have survived on meat, and therefore, they have taught us
18 on how hunting should be done.

19 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

20 THE INTERPRETER: And as far back as I can remember, I
21 can always remember our forefathers telling stories on
22 survival, and therefore, our children have learned to accept
23 the fact that hunting thus and so is very important and that it
24 can be fun; there can be some fun involved in hunting, and
25 therefore, it has been passed on from generation to generation.

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1 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

2 THE INTERPRETER: And therefore, our children, if they
3 have no other means of hunting, they can punch holes -- drill
4 some holes in the ice and hunt for fish, or they can either go
5 up inland and look for some game from the land. And my
6 children have learned to do all this, and they love to do it,
7 and they would rather that nothing bothered it from this time
8 forth.

9 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER: My children are not the only one
11 that can do the hunting; there are many other families'
12 childrens involved in hunting on those -- on the ocean ice and
13 up inland, wherever the game is. But I am saying this, just to
14 show you an example on how livelihood is done in this part of
15 the country, I have some more -- more important things to say.

16 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

17 THE INTERPRETER: I have seen, during this Valdez oil
18 spill, I have watched on t.v. how all the fowl and the seals,
19 how they were -- how the people were trying to clean them up,
20 but this oil just wouldn't come off, and I have seen what an
21 oil spill can do.

22 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

23 THE INTERPRETER: I have noticed on different game,
24 like on fowl for instance, they have a long neck and they
25 breathe not in the water but way above the water. Also the

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1 seals, they come up for air, and they can breathe the clean
2 air. But for a whale, if it comes up right away, it can come
3 up for air, but right away, all this contaminated water can get
4 in through his nostrils.

5 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: And if we should come upon a whale
7 that's barely living from all these contaminated waters, we'd
8 tell everyone about it, and maybe we'd all join together and
9 cry because we feel -- we feel so sorry about this whale that
10 has been -- that's barely living now. When an animal gets that
11 sick, there's no way we can eat it, and therefore, we can all
12 join together and cry, feeling sorry for this whale.

13 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER: And we people who live along this
15 coastline, no matter how far apart we are, when any one of the
16 villages catches a whale, we who live in other villages would
17 rejoice with them; we'd holler with them; we'd clap our hands
18 with them because that's how much, how precious, all these sea
19 mammals are to us. It doesn't make any difference where the
20 whale is catch -- caught because we love them; we love to eat
21 them. We're always happy. We always rejoice when people from
22 other villages catch one whale. Like for instance, not too
23 long ago, Campbell got a whale, and we -- when we -- soon as we
24 heard about it, we clapped our hands, and then we let out
25 whistles, whatever, because we were so happy.

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1 Even when people from other villages catches a whale,
2 that's how we are; that's how we people live. We're so glad
3 when someone elses (sic) catches a whale even if they live
4 in -- way far in other villages. It -- it makes no
5 difference. That's how life is up here in the North Country.
6 And therefore, we would not like of any kind of oil spill, any
7 kind of spill, to contaminate our waters where around these sea
8 mammals survive, where they live, where they migrate, because
9 they are our only livelihood.

10 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

11 THE INTERPRETER: We love to eat all the meat that is
12 in the ocean, any kind of mammal.

13 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER: Because -- especially on a whale,
15 when it is caught, it's big, it's huge, and therefore, it
16 can -- it can -- it can be spread, given out even to people in
17 other villages. Even you understand and know how its
18 distribution varies from here to there; no matter how far apart
19 we are, we always share in that.

20 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: Maybe if I could understand like
22 each one of you and -- and if I didn't need to have a
23 translator, there would be more words for me to say. But since
24 I have to use a translator to talk to you, or to understand
25 what you are saying, this is just about all I have to say.

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1 MR. TUCKLE: (In Inupiat)

2 THE INTERPRETER: But there's one last thing I want to
3 tell you; there's one last thing I want to say. If you're
4 going to do any drilling, keep our waters clean. If ever you
5 find it anywhere where you can drill, make sure that all the
6 water is clean where all these animals migrate. Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Marie.

8 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MARIE ADAMS

9 Thank you for this opportunity to testify. My name is
10 Marie Adams. I work for the North Slope Borough Public
11 Information Office as Manager currently, but for many years, I
12 worked with the whaling captains on the whaling issue, and it's
13 very important to me, and the reason why I became involved in
14 the first place, because our family's been involved with
15 whaling for generations.

16 But I just want to -- I don't want to take a long time
17 because I know there are elder whaling captains who would like
18 to testify also, but I'd like to just make a few points. What
19 Eugene Brower said is very important considering the -- there's
20 ongoing discussions of incidental take; that issue has not been
21 resolved.

22 And also, one of the things that I'd like to bring out
23 which might not have been brought out is the major oil spill in
24 Valdez was caused by human error. And considering your plans
25 to drill in an environment that you're still -- it's still sort

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1 of like an experimental stage, you're learning as you're going
2 along. And considering that our environment and the -- you
3 know, the fragile ecosystem, I think it's going to have a
4 devastating impact, and it's not going to be a major oil spill
5 that could devastate some sea mammals here because, like the
6 bowhead travels through narrow open lead systems. I don't
7 think it would take very much to do the kind of damage that
8 the -- what the -- the kind of damage that we saw down in
9 Valdez.

10 I'm very concerned that you are planning -- especially
11 in the Chukchi Sea area where the ice dynamics are more
12 extreme, and you don't have the experience there; no one has
13 that experience. I'm very concerned that considering the
14 amount of activity we've seen in the past and the chances are
15 we'll probably see an oil spill if that -- if they start
16 drilling and going into any activity on the Chukchi Sea area.

17 So with that, I just would like to say I strongly
18 oppose the sale -- the Beaufort Sea Sale 124 and support the
19 statements that Eugene Brower, President of the Barrow Whaling
20 Captains Association has said. Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Walter Akpik?
22 Akpik.

23 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF WALTER AKPIK, SR.

24 Good evening. My name Walter Akpik. I'm happy you
25 have a translator here. Yeah.

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1 (Mr. Akpik's testimony presented in Inupiat,
2 translated into English by the Interpreter)

3 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

4 (Interpreter consulting with Mr. Akpik)

5 THE INTERPRETER: I am happy to be in this meeting,
6 especially to see John Schindler back in Barrow, who had been
7 working up here for such a long time. And I'm also happy to
8 hear, to say, that when you people come up for these public
9 hearings, you are known -- you make it known that you will be
10 here, and you don't -- and you don't have these public hearings
11 just by accident, and I'm really grateful for that.

12 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

13 THE INTERPRETER: At the moment, from all these other
14 people that are involved in this meeting, attending this
15 meeting here, I may be the eldest of all of them, as I am 75
16 years old now.

17 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

18 THE INTERPRETER: I have lived the Inupiat way of life
19 all these years.

20 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: As I have lived all these years, I
22 have survived on all -- on all the animals, the land animals.
23 I have survived on all of them.

24 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: As far back as I can remember, life

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1 was not simple because, at the time I was growing up, the whale
2 blubber was so precious because it was used for fuel to heat up
3 the homes, and from that experience, I know how precious even a
4 small piece of blubber can be to an Inupiat.

5 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: At the time I was growing up, there
7 were times when we had to save every piece of blubber, be it
8 from the seal, the whale, the oogaluk (ph), anything that
9 burns. We had fuel we had to use to heat up our homes, and
10 that was how life was as I was growing up.

11 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

12 THE INTERPRETER: As we lived in Barrow, right around
13 Barrow, not in Barrow itself but right around Barrow, there
14 came a time that some people came up and built up what we now
15 call the Nar (ph).

16 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

17 THE INTERPRETER: And with it, at the time of the
18 building of Nar (ph) and the maintaining of it, development --
19 as development came into Barrow, jobs were offered to the
20 residents that lived here. And with it, as they -- as the
21 Inupiat people started earning money, they be -- they became --
22 most of them became audacious because they now have this money
23 in their pockets to spend.

24 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: Shortly thereafter, after I worked a

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1 little while out at Nar, I was involved in this expedition that
2 we're going out to look and to experiment where all the oil or
3 the gas was.

4 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

5 THE INTERPRETER: At the time, while I was working on
6 this expedi- -- with this expedition, we went out to the
7 Prudhoe area and we found out it had a lot of oil underneath
8 the ground.

9 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER: I have learned from experience that
11 it is a thrilling experience when you find out there's a lot of
12 oil underneath.

13 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER: There was this white man that I was
15 working with at the time, and without meaning to, we penetrated
16 the oil. We were just looking for it, and then, without
17 meaning to, we penetrated the oil, where all the oil was, and
18 then I found out that there is a lot of oil underneath our
19 grounds here.

20 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: And shortly thereafter, maybe it was
22 about four years later, that when GSI came up -- up this far
23 north, they asked me if I could be available to be their guide.

24 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: We who have lived this long know

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1 there is some good to all this oil because, from experience, we
2 know, have found out, that there is a lot of oil involved under
3 our grounds.

4 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

5 THE INTERPRETER: As I was sitting in on this meeting,
6 I have heard.....

7 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

8 THE INTERPRETER:I have seen in the map right
9 behind you how the Beaufort Sea.....

10 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

11 THE INTERPRETER:where all this drilling is
12 supposedly to take place.....

13 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER:out in our ocean.

15 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

16 THE INTERPRETER: Because our sea is full of sea
17 mammals.....

18 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER:I, as one person, cannot give
20 it away because we know that the sea has all these animals
21 living in it, including the whale that was mentioned so often
22 at this meeting this night.

23 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

24 THE INTERPRETER: During the summer, this past summer,
25 one of my sons had gotten a job in one of the ships that were

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1 drilling for oil in the ocean.

2 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

3 THE INTERPRETER: As the water became rough, he was
4 concerned that something would happen to the oil rig because
5 everyone on that ship got so seasick from all these waves, the
6 big waves, the big swells, that -- that went on the ocean,
7 there was no trace of ice anywhere; therefore, all these waves
8 made them all so seasick.

9 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER: And if you plan to drill in our
11 ocean.....

12 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

13 THE INTERPRETER:you have seen how the ice, as
14 you have seen, there is lots of ice here in our part of the
15 country.

16 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

17 THE INTERPRETER: If you plan to drill in our waters,
18 be it in the winter, be it in the summer, whether you're using
19 a big ship, we don't know what will become of it.

20 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: I can tell you from experience, this
22 happened way, way back. A ship named.....

23 (Whispered consultation)

24 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER:Bad Camel, a ship named by

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1 that, was lifted up on top the ice as it was down there in the
2 water.....

3 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

4 THE INTERPRETER:and people from the villages,
5 as they saw it happen, they went down to see about this ship
6 that was on top the ice, how it got there and all that.

7 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

8 THE INTERPRETER: So if you plan to drill from a
9 ship.....

10 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

11 THE INTERPRETER:we don't know what the ice
12 conditions will be and how the ice conditions will handle that
13 rig.

14 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: Because when the currents and the
16 ice, there's no force to hold it once it starts moving, and no
17 matter how big a ship there is that is used to drill in our
18 waters, we are very concerned of what will happen to it should
19 the ice conditions and the current start carrying that ice
20 where it -- where it will.

21 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

22 THE INTERPRETER: I have learned from experience what
23 the ice conditions, once -- once they start piling up on --
24 what they can do, I have seen, there is nothing to stop it once
25 those ice conditions start piling up one on top the other

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1 because I have seen it with my own eyes what it can do.
2 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)
3 THE INTERPRETER: And therefore, we have all these
4 pressure ridges.....
5 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat).....
6 THE INTERPRETER:no matter how solid the ice
7 looks, no matter how solid the ice may seem.
8 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)
9 THE INTERPRETER: And so from experience, I have
10 watched how these pressure ridges pile up. They don't stop on
11 the land -- land-locked ice, but they do come up on -- on top
12 the ground and then they continue to pile up.
13 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)
14 THE INTERPRETER: I have come to this meeting to
15 present this to you. It does not mean it does not have any
16 backup that I am holding this important job. Because of my
17 important job, it has no background like that, but I wanted you
18 to know and to hear what I have learned from experience.
19 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)
20 THE INTERPRETER: So you have already heard what has
21 been said by the -- by the speakers that were -- that spoke
22 before I did.
23 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)
24 THE INTERPRETER: So as I have watched this, seen it
25 from experience, there's no telling. No matter how big a ship

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1 there is that's -- that has -- that has this break drilling for
2 oil down there, there's no telling what will happen to it once
3 you've struck oil and what will happen to it should these ice
4 conditions pile up on it.

5 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: Right now I want to thank you, you
7 with the oil companies, you who work with the oil companies.....

8 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

9 THE INTERPRETER:because I love to speak to all
10 of you people.....

11 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

12 THE INTERPRETER:because I have worked with you
13 before in this part of the country.....

14 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER:because it is your job to look
16 for all of these oil and for the gas.

17 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

18 THE INTERPRETER: Because even here in Barrow, no
19 equipment can run without any oil in it.

20 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: And even in our homes here in
22 Barrow, they are heated by the gas which you have worked and
23 started here in the North Slope.

24 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

25 THE INTERPRETER: Even the Inupiat people here in

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1 Barrow, when they're going out on a trip with a snow machine,
2 they load up their sleds with gas.

3 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

4 THE INTERPRETER: Even when they're traveling by boat,
5 they have to fill up their boats with gas.

6 MR. AKPIK: (In Inupiat)

7 THE INTERPRETER: Because your job here in the North
8 Slope is very important to me, and I want to thank you all for
9 coming up here.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Arthur.

11 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF ARTHUR NEAKOK

12 (Mr. Neakok's testimony presented in Inupiat,
13 translated into English by the Interpreter)

14 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: You -- all of you may have known
16 that I have worked with John Schindler for 15 years.

17 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

18 THE INTERPRETER: I have nothing -- I had -- I don't
19 have too much to say except for the ice conditions.

20 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: Because we have lived here in the
22 far north and we have known and seen what ice conditions can do.

23 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

24 THE INTERPRETER: There was a time when I was a boy, I
25 have seen what it did, what the ice conditions did to this

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1 whale that was caught.

2 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

3 THE INTERPRETER: I wanted you to know, or here, as
4 the whale was being pulled up by block and tackle on top the
5 ice, a pressure ridge formed right away, and it covered up the
6 whale that was being towed by block and tackle on top the ice,
7 and we never saw that whale again. I just wanted you to know
8 what ice conditions can be like here in this part of the
9 country.

10 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

11 THE INTERPRETER: Not only did the ice pressure ridge
12 did that to the whale, but there was a time during whaling
13 season, this time of the year, when the ice was piling up where
14 all the whale camps were down in the ice. There was a man that
15 had his foot caught in a crack, and the ice piled up right on
16 top of them while they were looking at him. He was never seen
17 of again at the -- at the time nor since.

18 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER: So if you plan -- if there are plans
20 to -- to put up an oil rig on a boat, a ship, whatever, I want
21 you to know that even if there is no sign of ice anywhere,
22 there can -- it can come up on you without notice and without
23 any -- without any warning. And when that happens, all this
24 water is covered by ice, and there is nowhere that a boat or a
25 ship can travel when ice conditions come in like that.

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1 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)
2 THE INTERPRETER: So.....
3 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)
4 THE INTERPRETER:if this rig is on a ship,
5 whatever, these ice conditions, when they come in that fast,
6 can take it anywhere with its current, can take -- the ice can
7 take this oil rig, the ship, whatever. It can take it with it
8 because there is no stopping when the ice conditions and the
9 currents start going in one direction.
10 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)
11 THE INTERPRETER: There is nothing too much I have to
12 say, but I wanted you to hear firsthand of what I have seen,
13 especially when the ice current -- ice and the currents go in
14 one direction, nothing can stop them. It's a force that
15 nothing -- nothing stands in its way and, therefore, cannot be
16 stopped.
17 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)
18 THE INTERPRETER: I want to thank you, and this is
19 what I wanted you to hear and to know.
20 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Arthur.
21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Delbert.
22 (Whispered comments)
23 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: There he is.
24 MR. REXFORD: Did you say Delbert?
25 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Delbert Rexford, yes, sir.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF DELBERT REXFORD

Yeah. My name is Delbert Rexford. I'm -- I don't -- I'm not an expert in any -- any capacity, but what I do understand is the wisdom that our elders have to offer. We've listened to many public hearings such as this in an effort to protect our lifestyle, which is deeply embedded in and around the bowhead whale and around the marine mammals that are within the Beaufort and Chukchi Sea. Over the years since I was able to go out with my father and my relatives, I've grown accustomed to a lifestyle that I treasure, that is precious both to myself, to my parents, and hopefully to my children as they grow into that type of lifestyle.

Two hundred years ago, the -- Columbus, quote "discovered," unquote, America, and every since that time, our European visitors have devastated cultures. For 200 years, the American Native has been put under a certain type of bondage that only the white man can alleviate through their own manmade laws in Congress. I have a lot of respect for -- for the laws that they provide, but when it comes to threatening and jeopardizing our cultural society, specifically, the Inupiat way of life up here in the Arctic, I become defensive, and rightly so because the great law of culture is to let one be what they were created to be.

The Valdez oil spill has shown the world that the oil industry doesn't have an adequate oil spill contingency plan in

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1 ice-free waters. Even Exxon was scrambling around all across
2 the nation and the world to get -- to get the equipment that
3 was needed to contain 11 million barrels of -- 11 million
4 gallons of oil. Even today, Exxon is not willing to foot the
5 bill for the damage that they did to the environment. That
6 goes to show you the commitment of the oil industry that, in
7 the name of profit, they're willing to jeopardize the marine
8 mammals, the cultures that are dependent on those marine
9 mammals. And when it comes time to clean up oil spills, they
10 will argue and argue and say, 'We've done the best we can.'

11 The --the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas are unique in
12 many -- many areas in that the Chukchi Sea is more devastating
13 than the Beaufort Sea. These are based on comments that are
14 made by elders. Like Walter said, we're dependent on petroleum
15 products that are -- that are extracted from either land or
16 from the -- from the -- from the Outer Continental Shelf. That
17 is the present lifestyle that we lead; however, what is most
18 important to us is to lead the lifestyle that we're accustomed
19 to, and that means protecting the environment.

20 The Inupiat people are conservative and
21 environmentalists not by choice but because of the elements of
22 the area that we live in, the harshness of the climate, the
23 treacherous conditions of the ice, and unpredictable conditions
24 when we're out hunting, and so we become conservative and
25 become more alert. But the oil industry is only interested in

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1 extracting the oils and gas so that their stockholders can
2 benefit in the long run. Even today, the greenhouse effect is
3 not being adequately addressed. We have warming, we have a
4 global warming occurring today, and Congress is trying to
5 tackle it. We have spills.

6 I was -- I was not impressed by the handout that said
7 that one of the things that is real impressive is that the
8 Outer Continental Shelf has less than 20 barrels reported for
9 oil spill on the Outer Continental Shelf. But the ecosystem up
10 here is sensitive, like many before me have testified. That is
11 the -- the concern that we have, is that to upset the ecosystem
12 would be to upset our lifestyle. We're dependent not only on
13 the marine mammals but the fish that migrate in and out of the
14 rivers.

15 There are many life cycles that we're -- the game
16 cycles that we're talking about here, but the main concern is
17 the Sale 124 should not proceed because, just like in the days
18 of Columbus, you're devastating -- you're still devastating
19 cultures in the name not -- in -- on the oil and gas
20 interested -- industry's part, it's in the name of profit; in
21 the nation's part, in the -- it's in the name of national
22 interest to become independent of foreign oil. And who is the
23 true victim when a oil spill occurs? We would be the victims
24 if an oil spill would occur out there in our -- in our sea that
25 we are dependent on, on a year-around basis for -- for -- for

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1 hunting off of and subsisting from.

2 In closing, I just want to say that I'm not an expert;
3 just like you, I'm -- I'm a human being. But you -- you have
4 your own task to do, and that's to scope what the concerns of
5 the community is. And I think you'll hear throughout this
6 hearing that we don't want oil development on -- on the Chukchi
7 and Beaufort Sea that will jeopardize our culture and
8 jeopardize our lifestyle. We have an identity as a culture
9 that we are proud of, and we don't feel that oil industry
10 should be allowed to jeopardize it. Of course, there are many
11 good benefits to oil and gas industry development, but when it
12 jeopardizes our cultural lifestyle, that's where we draw the
13 line.

14 And it's up to -- I was told that the highlighted
15 areas up there are deferrals; however, they're subject to the
16 Secretary's discretion to -- to approve or disapprove for
17 development. Those shaded areas are bowhead -- bowhead
18 migration routes and possibly feeding grounds. One of the
19 things that is mentioned in the handout is to -- is to protect
20 the environment. Well, the bowhead whale is in that
21 environment, within the waters, and if any oil spill occurs or
22 changes the route of the migration of the whale because of the
23 activity, then we suffer. We have to go out further.

24 Drill ships have been mentioned. I prefer
25 bottom-fastened drilling platforms. I -- I toured one, and I --

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1 and I feel comfortable that a CIDS would be preferable over a
2 drill ship that -- that has a drill -- a pipe going all the way
3 down to the bottom of the ocean floor to seek for oil. Arthur
4 Neakok has talked about the devastating power of the -- of the
5 moving ice. There are too many questions that have not been
6 answered by industry to satisfy our concerns.

7 So, in closing, I just want to say that, Let us
8 continue to live our cultural lifestyle without interrupting
9 the marine mammals that are out in the Chukchi and Beaufort
10 Sea. We are different from you in that your culture is based
11 on possibly an eight-to-five job; going down to Safeway,
12 getting meat from the -- over the counter, taking it home; and
13 on Thanksgiving, going to the store again, buying a piece of
14 turkey, and on Christmas some ham, and on special occasions,
15 different special foods for your -- or your particular
16 culture. But for us, the whale is the backbone of our
17 culture. It provides an opportunity to be spiritually sound,
18 mentally sound, and physically alert to what our culture is.

19 And I hope that -- that when you get back to the
20 Secretary, that the recommendation will be no sale, and I don't
21 feel that -- I can only speak for myself, but that is the
22 general consensus I'm getting. I'd like to protect my -- my
23 lifestyle, my culture. We've seen the Amazon destroyed; we've
24 seen the American Native cultures destroyed, tribes
25 devastated. I mean, we do not have to be victims in the name

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1 of profit. Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you, Delbert. Burton.
3 Burton Rexford?

4 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF BURTON REXFORD

5 Welcome to Barrow. My name is Burton Rexford. I'm a
6 whaling captain; I'm also involved with AAWCS, an alternate
7 Commissioner, also on the Board of the Barrow Whaling Captains
8 Association. I was born at the Point, not in Barrow.

9 The three active currents that we deal with here in
10 Barrow, one is mentioned, I hear it on the radio -- or two of
11 them -- from the west and east. The other one goes directly
12 north; that's right at the Point. Now, these currents are very
13 active, and they can change any direction, the two currents,
14 any way from the east and west, without a moment's notice. The
15 one coming from the east, generally, this time of the year,
16 we'll make a test of the land shore-fast ice, and we'll test it
17 for its strength and power. It has taken it out many a times
18 in my years right through the sandbar, the land shore-fast
19 ice. That's how much force that carries when it comes this
20 time of the year.

21 It's a tester. I call it a tester because the current
22 coming from the west, and the west wind, builds pressure ice --
23 pressure ridges, for the safety of the Eskimo hunter, it
24 grounds them into the bottom of the ocean all winter long; it
25 will do that. But the other current that comes from the east

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1 this time of the year will come and test that, and it's very
2 forceful; it's stronger than the one that comes from the west.
3 The other current that goes north, right from the Point, it
4 goes a heck of a long ways out there. I rode those ice floes
5 many a times. It's dense; you have to go over the ice in order
6 to get to the open water. I wouldn't even attempt to go over
7 the ice; I'd just wait for it to take me to the next current up
8 north.

9 So in the event there's a spill, we have these
10 currents to be concerned with. The people before me that
11 testified, there is no clean-up under the ice. This is very
12 true. There was also a mention of the year-around ice. The
13 year-around ice that was not mentioned, and the next current
14 from here, it takes about six hours on full speed with a
15 70-horse and about an 18-foot Lund full speed, I would say
16 about 60 miles at 270 degrees, six hours without slowing down.
17 That is where you will find what we call the glacier ice. I
18 don't know how many years old that ice is, but it's out there.
19 With a strong west wind, high winds, it can come in to the
20 beach here while I'm sleeping during the night. It doesn't
21 give any warning; it comes in through, between here and
22 Franklin Point. This glacier ice doesn't come in from the
23 north; it comes in between here and Franklin Point.

24 Those are the currents. If there was a spill, I don't
25 see how you can clean it up. The Eskimo has a right to be

1 concerned about any offshore activity. They know their sea,
2 land, ice; they have been conditioned for years and years.
3 They learned from their forefathers. Their forefathers went
4 through the same thing, the harsh times out in the ocean; they
5 slept out there. So do we; we sleep out there on ice floes.
6 We don't make an attempt to go home on some of those ice floes
7 when we get caught out there merely because of safety of a
8 younger generation. You don't dare try to go home in a big
9 hurry, just -- we just take your -- just take our time. We
10 know where we're going to hit land. If we get caught on that
11 north current that's going north, that's very easy to figure
12 out for an Eskimo; we know where we're going to hit land.

13 When you get into that situation, you -- you stop and
14 think. You stop drinking tea and Coke and coffee because
15 you're breathing saltwater fumes, not because you don't like
16 it, because it's the Bible. You start rationing out water; you
17 start rationing out food, and it has to be Native food, and
18 very little food. That's how the Eskimo survives out there.

19 Thank you very much.

20 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

21 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Burton.

22 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Henry Huntington.

23 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF HENRY HUNTINGTON

24 Good evening. My name is Henry Huntington, and I live
25 in Barrow. I'm sorry to interrupt the elders and the Whaling

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1 Captains who know much more about this than I do, but I have
2 some comments to make about statements in the Environmental
3 Impact Statement.

4 Section 4(n) of the Environmental Impact Statement
5 says that in the cumulative Arctic case from Hope Basin to the
6 Canadian Beaufort, there is a 99-percent chance of a spill in
7 excess of 1,000 barrels, and it is considered most likely that
8 there will be eight such spills. The cumulative effects are
9 more important than the effects just for Lease Sale 124 because
10 they are the most likely to cause damage and the most insidious
11 because they are the result of many individual effects which
12 are, by themselves, minor. For example, compare the East Coast
13 of the United States. It has not become destroyed by one great
14 action off the coast but by many things that, in themselves,
15 seem insignificant.

16 Section 4(n) also says that 20 spills of greater than
17 1,000 barrels have occurred since 1964 in Outer Continental
18 Shelf activities. That means that since you expect eight
19 spills in the Arctic, the Arctic spills would be equal to 40
20 percent of the spills that have already happened in the past 26
21 years. That seems like a lot of spills. The largest of these
22 20 spills was 160,000 barrels. The chances of a spill of that
23 magnitude may not be great, but let's look again at the Exxon
24 Valdez.

25 According to the Alaska Oil Spill Commission report

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1 quoted by Tom Lohman earlier, there have been more than 8,700
2 transits of Prince William Sound by oil tankers; only one
3 spilled. One out of 8,700 is .01 percent. That sounds
4 minimal, but with enough transits by tankers, the chances of a
5 spill become great. If you said that .01 percent was the
6 chance that a given well here would produce a major spill, you
7 would probably go on to say that it wasn't worth worrying
8 about. I don't think anyone would agree with that from Prince
9 William Sound, and considering the devastating consequences of
10 a spill to the Arctic environment, I don't see why it should be
11 tolerated here.

12 In the oil spill report, it also states that the
13 procedures developed in 1977 for tankers in the Sound were not
14 being followed by the mid-1980s. Things got sloppy. You have
15 mentioned procedures to minimize the risks of oil spills, but
16 who is to say that they will be followed? Who is to say that
17 things won't get sloppy here? Who is to say that a disaster
18 won't materialize here? The oil spill clean-up techniques
19 discussed in Section 4(a) of the Environmental Impact Statement
20 include such measures as portable rope mops and manual
21 removal. This brings to mind people in Prince William Sound
22 wiping rocks with paper towels. That's not very reassuring.
23 The only thing the Environmental Impact Statement promises is
24 the 99-percent chance of a greater -- of an oil spill greater
25 than 1,000 barrels.

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1 I would like to reiterate what many people here have
2 said this evening. If you can't be sure what will happen, no
3 lease sales should be made. Until it is certain that the
4 slippery slope does not lead to an oil spill, the first step
5 down it should not be taken. You asked for comments about
6 improving the EIS, it's simple: Make no sale, the preferred
7 alternative.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Robert.

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

11 (Whispered consultation)

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Nate Oleman? Oh. I'm just --

13 (Laughter)

14 MR. SCHINDLER: Sorry, Charlotte. Next one.

15 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: You're next.

16 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF NATE OLEMAN

17 MR. OLEMAN: (In Inupiat)

18 It's not the first time I'm appearing in a panel like
19 this, and I'm not even greeting you for coming to our
20 community, but I'm aroused and mad that the panel has appeared
21 to bring promises of a safeguard environment within our land
22 and sea. They have promises of working it without damaging the
23 environment and have methods of cleaning up after the
24 environment and leave the tundra or the ocean as it was before
25 they started their project.

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1 (In Inupiat)

2 I'm going to use as an example of what's in our
3 background right now, in our back yard, of what the federal
4 government has done. At Shooting Station, they have buried
5 their debris into the spit going to the Point and sank some of
6 the metal and other debris into our lagoon out there. We use
7 that lagoon to go inland and to go hunting. We use the
8 Shooting Station all summer for hunting in our ocean, in the
9 lagoon, and on the land.

10 (Off record)

11 (Tape Change - Tape No. 3)

12 (On record)

13 MR. OLEMAN: Not by cleaning up the debris, we the
14 community have to suffer, and we see it every summer.

15 (In Inupiat)

16 Back in '77, through a request from the community, I
17 wrote a letter to the Navy since USE was run by the Navy -- not
18 USE, USE now was run by the Navy, and we knew it as a Navy
19 camp. The Navy respond and pass it down to U.S. Air Force at
20 the DEW Line site saying it was their responsibility to clean
21 up the debris in the lagoon and along the spit since they were
22 running the DEW Line site. The Air Force in turn respond and
23 said that the debris was cleaned up around the DEW Line site
24 and their responsibility wasn't the bay or the spit, it was the
25 Coast Guard's responsibility.

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1 And the Coast Guard looked into the matter because
2 they mentioned the lagoon quite a bit, but when they
3 investigated, some of the debris was along the coastline, both
4 in the ocean and the lagoon and buried along the spit. So they
5 determined that the responsibility lay on the U.S. Army Corps
6 of Engineers to be cleaned up. The Corps did the same thing;
7 they investigated and reported back that since the property was
8 designated to the Navy and was under the jurisdiction of the
9 Navy, and it was the Navy's responsibility to clean up the
10 debris.

11 To this day, the debris is still out there, and that's
12 just a example of how the government's version of coming in and
13 saying they have the technology to clean up before they leave.
14 The only technology they have is they know how to pass the
15 buck. They know it's the government's responsibility, but they
16 don't know who to blame it on. The oil spill, if it occurs out
17 in the ocean, is going to be routed the same way.

18 (In Inupiat)

19 They'll rely on the nature, like the Valdez spill, to
20 clean up the mess 'cause they don't have the technology. And
21 after listening to what's been said, I support and oppose the
22 lease sale of 124.

23 (In Inupiat)

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

25 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Nate. Charlotte.

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1 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Charlotte's on her way.

2 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF CHARLOTTE BROWER

3 Good evening. My name is Charlotte Brower for the
4 record. I'll go on two titles: wife of a whaling captain, and
5 I also work for the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission as the
6 Manager who takes care of the day-to-day affairs of the
7 Commission.

8 I remember in 1977 when the community of Barrow was
9 told to come and testify at the Epollo (ph) multi-purpose, to
10 come and testify as to why there would be a ban, a moratorium,
11 on whaling, something that was real important to the community
12 of Barrow. I had only been married for almost six years at
13 that time, and my husband had been just being involved as a
14 whaling co-captain to a whaling captain, and I went and
15 testified before a commission, and we're all concerns (sic).
16 There were a number of people that came and testified, and I
17 testified asking how they would replace what -- what is
18 normally fed at our table. And that winter, that fall, from
19 house to house, there were some people passing out beef, and
20 that was supposed to be our supplement, what was supposed to be
21 in place of the nutritional needs that the bowhead whale would
22 have given.

23 That was the type of response that we had received in
24 1977. But that didn't stop our whaling captains, whaling
25 captains that had been captains for a number of years and are

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1 still whaling captains to this date even though their sons have
2 taken over. They decided that the only way that they could do
3 it was to form a unified body, so even though they were just
4 captains just from Barrow, they formed with other captains from
5 the coastal villages, and then they formed the Alaska Eskimo
6 Whaling Commission.

7 It was a real rocky start for the Alaska Eskimo
8 Whaling Commission from the time it was formed. To this date,
9 the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission stands, and it's still a
10 unified body with nine whaling villages that they represent.
11 The -- we have two villages that have been real successful to
12 date; that's Savoonga and Gambell. And it's real hard when a
13 whaling village calls to where I work to ask if a transfer
14 strike could be made while the rest of the other whaling
15 villages that also needs the whale during the spring haven't
16 even gone out and when that whaling village has to be told to
17 stay still until the other whaling villages have a chance to go
18 out and whale during the springtime. Because there are two
19 types of whaling that our whaling captains do, and that is
20 during the springtime and in the falltime.

21 We're allocated so many strikes that we have to
22 negotiate with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration,
23 and within the last recent few years, due to Steven Brown
24 Associates, we were able to convince the federal government and
25 the IWC that there is a need to increase the quota so that the

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1 people throughout the nine villages could have, based on their
2 nutritional needs, the number of strikes. The villages that
3 are affected with lower number of strikes still feel that the
4 Steven Brown Associates study is still inadequate because it
5 has not yet met their nutritional needs.

6 I am mother of six kids, and it's real hard for me to
7 feed my children year-around. I have to supplement them also
8 with whatever else I could feed them, whether it's the Native
9 food or non-Native food. As a parent, I have to be real
10 concerned of things that affect my children.

11 For a number of years, the Environmental Impact
12 Statements would be made, number of things would come up. We
13 have social impacts that is happening to our villages, not only
14 in the nine coastal villages but throughout the state of
15 Alaska. We have the same problems that United States have, and
16 that is in alcoholism, drug abuse, and then you have number of
17 people that are going to be out there, whatever they're going
18 to be doing, out in the ice, they're going to come with those
19 problems, and then those problems will be our problems.

20 And whatever you do and however you decide, it is very
21 important that at least you listen to what these people have to
22 say because they are the ones that do live in this
23 environment. They have opportunities to go out and live in the
24 other parts of the country, not only in United States but
25 international places, and they've seen how other peoples live.

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1 And the Northern people here are real strong, real strong
2 advocates. If it's something that's going to jeopardize their
3 livelihood, they will not have any obstacle in their way.

4 And right now, I think Sale 124 is a real important
5 issue that the Barrow Whaling Captains are going to be faced
6 with, and it is going to impact them, not only during their
7 spring but in fall whaling in the next coming few years, and
8 that's a reality that we have to face. Kaktovik Village and
9 Nuiqsut Village had to endure all what they've done because of
10 the Prudhoe Bay. The Prudhoe Bay area that is there has
11 impacted their way of whaling that they have done throughout
12 the number of years in the past. They have to go out of their
13 way to go other places to go whaling, and they have to tow that
14 whale from that place to their butchering site, and sometimes
15 it takes them at least a good day if -- if not, to butcher that
16 whale.

17 And those are the kind of impacts that are happening
18 to the captains. And safety of those captains is a real
19 important factor because they're out in -- in boats; their only
20 mode of communications is through their C.B. or marines, marine
21 VHF's. And they're going more and more further out, and the oil
22 companies need to know they -- they are impacts. These whaling
23 captains do have families at home; they support people, not
24 only in their families but extended families, and it's -- the
25 same applies here in Barrow.

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1 And I'd like to go on record that Sale 124 should be
2 opposed. Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

4 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Charlotte.

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: George Edwardson.

6 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF GEORGE EDWARDSON

7 My name is George Edwardson, and I'm the President of
8 Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope. We're a federally
9 recognized regional government for the eight North Slope
10 villages, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow,
11 Wainwright, Point Lay, and Point Hope. And starting since 1977
12 when the State of Alaska started to go offshore in Point
13 Thompson, we have said no as individuals in every form we can
14 give you; starting from the school kids right on up to our
15 elders, we have said no. We've also said no as whole
16 communities, as separate communities, and also as our regional
17 corporation back in '77 and our village corporations, each of
18 them, one by one, have opposed offshore development. Our local
19 IRA Councils and our traditional councils, all federally
20 recognized, we all have said no. Our state local governments
21 have said no; our regional governments, from the North Slope
22 Borough, to Inupiat Community, we have said no; and also with
23 our international front through ICC we have said no. And for
24 the -- since the end of the 1970s, now we're in 1990s, and
25 we're still saying the same thing but seem to can't get the

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1 message through.

2 And if you want to talk about law, laws, this MMS has
3 to follow the same federal laws and international treaties we
4 have, don't we? You have the Endangered Species Act you're
5 violating, and right there, right on the map behind you, you're
6 showing us where the bowheads and the other whales rest. You
7 have 29 endangered specie animals living within the lease sale
8 area where you're trying to say you want to sell. You're
9 violating this Endangered Species Act you marine mammals
10 protect -- you marine mammals -- Minerals Management Service,
11 excuse me. And also the Marine Mammal Protection Act, you're
12 violating that too. MMS is violating these acts also: the
13 International Migratory Bird Treaty you're also violating to
14 try to conduct your Lease Sale 124.

15 And to make it worse, I didn't even know about this
16 hearing here, and I hadn't received your draft resolution or
17 been, you know, notified except through the newspapers, and my
18 villages, the only way they can find out is through the
19 newspapers. Why weren't we properly notified you were going to
20 go out and sell our ocean?

21 Our communities through -- as Inupiat Community, we've
22 spent better than \$19 million in lawsuits trying to save our
23 lifestyle and preserve our way of life. This we have spent
24 through the good grace of our local governments, our regional
25 governments, regional corporations, our village corporations,

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1 all have spent to try to get this message across to you. And
2 we never -- looks like, when we sit here talking like this, we
3 haven't made it yet. We speak the same language, but the
4 understanding is not coming through.

5 Now, you want to talk about, you know, how good you're
6 going to clean up. You can't even start about that 'cause you,
7 as America, claimed the last time those two icebreakers came up
8 here they were the strongest in the world -- you couldn't even
9 make it to Christmas. And here one of them was just following
10 the other one back and both of them stuck in the ice. This is
11 the most powerful ships you're going to use to take care of
12 your clean-up crews?

13 Technology. You say you have the technology -- you're
14 still drilling with a piece of iron pipe. And we -- we all
15 understand what happens when you heat one end of a piece of
16 iron, the heat transfers to the other end. The permafrost is
17 less than 12 degrees below freezing, and it's just -- just to
18 give you an example how much permafrost, when a pipe sits in
19 the ground and don't even move, ever since the Navy drilled at
20 Onakpah (ph), the permafrost was at 1,900 feet. Just -- just
21 this past year they tested it and found out it's up to 1,300
22 feet now. You just melted a spot in the permafrost just by
23 leaving a pipe in the ground.

24 And you give us a indication that, you know, there
25 might be oil out there. Now, that's -- that's a lie that has

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1 to stop. When the industry and the government decides to go
2 look for oil, there is oil. You have satellites with infrared
3 capabilities that can look below the surface. You have
4 airplanes that can smell the air that comes -- that oil comes
5 out of the ground with, even over the ocean. You worked on
6 some of them there, John, while you were up here at Narl (ph).

7 And on your clean-up boats, your skimmer boats, back
8 in the beginning of the 1970s, I spent better than seven and a
9 half years in the oil industry. I was the person in charge of
10 the first skimmer boat that ever came to Alaska in the
11 beginning of the 1970s, and the skimmer boat they gave me to
12 clean oil with in the Cook Inlet was a house pontoon boat
13 without the house, and in order to make it stay afloat in the
14 Cook Inlet, we had to fill the pontoons with styrofoam. That
15 was the first clean-up boat that ever came to Alaska. And when
16 you look at your clean-up equipment, it has not improved -- and
17 you're talking about better than 20 years of experience that's
18 supposed to refine your technology.

19 And if you want some facts on this matter, where
20 you're going to go drill, that is the ice that feeds one-third
21 of the world's fish, between Greenland and Canada, the currents
22 flowing that way. You make a mess, you lose -- you lose some
23 oil, the toxicity of the oil does not deteriorate because it's
24 cold. We don't have the warm weather like down in Valdez or
25 down in Mexico where you lost it before. The -- the toxic

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1 gases will not disappear; they will stay there. And every time
2 the ice rotates, we're going to get hit with it again. You're
3 talking about threatening two-thirds of the world's fisheries,
4 you know, identified by the International Beaufort Sea
5 synthesis that was conducted in Seward a few years ago.

6 And then at the same time, instead of just one-third
7 of the world's fisheries on -- on the other side and another
8 third on our side, between Siberia and Alaska, you're talking
9 about two-thirds of the world's fish right there you could
10 affect just -- just looking for oil and gas, while at the same
11 time, right in the middle of Canada, right in the middle of
12 land, you've got the Alberta tar sands that can take care of
13 North America for 200 to 250 years in all its oil and gas needs
14 at the calculated, you know, usage increase. I mean, what's
15 going on?

16 And for -- for the Inupiat as a people, we have never
17 received any royalties in any extrac- -- any mineral extraction
18 or even renewable extractions from our region, and we have a
19 legal, legitimate jurisdiction recognized by Congress countless
20 times. Yet when industry decides to go out, or the federal
21 government, either from the federal government level or from
22 the State level, there is no talk about how much royalties
23 we're going to get 'cause we've never received any. Right now
24 we just entered into the Department of Justice through a U.S.
25 attorney, appealing the United States' actions and asking,

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1 Where's our royalties for Prudhoe Bay? Which the Department of
2 Commerce has notified us, and so far, it's up to 44 billion and
3 we haven't even been able to touch it; now you're talking about
4 going out in our whole ocean, and you haven't even come to talk
5 to us about that.

6 Alcohol problems. When you look at the people, right
7 now I'm -- have to deal with -- without any federal monies,
8 without no help, not from the churches, not from the state
9 governments or from the federal governments -- we have to deal
10 with over 250 child cases every six months without no help, and
11 a major portion of them is alcohol related because the parents
12 are worried about, 'Where am I going to feed my kids from? I
13 can't find a job.' And here we're sitting in the richest oil
14 field in North America. And major portions of our population
15 are unemployed and can't get work, with the biggest oil field
16 sitting right to the east of us here. And the PRA, we've never
17 received any royalties. Pet for (sic) when the Navy held it
18 and kept us off our land, we never received any, neither from
19 Prudhoe Bay.

20 And I just want to give you a copy of a letter I had
21 submitted to the Department of Justice, the Acting U.S.
22 Attorney, Mark Davis, asking for our royalty accounts, and I
23 want to submit it to you 'cause I'll have to include your name
24 in here, Minerals Management Service, as one of the criminals
25 for extracting minerals from within our lands without

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1 compensating us as a people. And also at the same time, I'll
2 also give you a copy of our Constitution that shows who we are
3 and how we run ourselves. And our Constitution's been approved
4 by the United States, and they even helped us rewrite it again
5 to make it stronger.

6 So I more than oppose Lease Sale 124, and I think as a
7 federal government agency, you should sit -- sit down and talk
8 to the tribes and see what they think and go from there instead
9 of just walking behind our backs and trying to bully your way
10 through, which looks like you're doing a good job of right
11 now. So I'd like to submit my Constitution and my cover letter
12 to the Department of Justice to show we oppose what you're
13 doing, and I'm going to include you on that list 'cause I have
14 to do a follow-up now. And if you want to talk to me or reach
15 us, here's my card, and you can reach me at Native Village of
16 Barrow.

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

18 MR. SCHINDLER: Thanks, George.

19 MR. EDWARDSON: And where do I put these?

20 MR. SCHINDLER: Would you bring it over around here?

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yeah, just the fellow in the
22 yellow shirt there.

23 (Applause)

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. We have four
25 more. Would you -- to testify as signed up. Would you rather

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1 take a break now, or should we go ahead and finish the four?

2 (Simultaneous speech indicating
3 the audience's desire to finish with
4 the four remaining speakers on the list)

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. I.....

6 MR. SCHINDLER: Raymond Neakok.

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Raymond?

8 MR. NEAKOK: Good evening. Hello, John.

9 MR. SCHINDLER: Hi, Ray.

10 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF RAYMOND NEAKOK, SR.

11 I want to first say a little bit in my own language
12 'cause it concerns my people. I'm President for the Native
13 Village of Barrow, and I have my Tribal Government Profile
14 which I wish to present to you, and also the Constitution of
15 the Native Village of Barrow, and along with it the Corporate
16 Charter.

17 (In Inupiat)

18 Before I go too far, what I am saying is we have been
19 telling you all of these years that you have extract- --
20 started extracting oil from our lands. You have very small
21 disregard (sic) for the people in the North. America law only
22 works for the Americans. We have hollered, we have cried when
23 we see the industry literally destroying your homes right in
24 front of your eyes. We have seen them dig up your brothers,
25 your sisters, your grandfathers out of the ground and literally

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1 just walk over them with tractors.

2 We as Inupiat are treated by the Americans as an
3 obstacle to steal our oil, our lands, our own burial grounds.
4 Justice for Inupiat is not evident by a white man's law because
5 white man is illiterate in the Inupiat law. You've been with
6 us since the early 1700s, and yet not even 2 percent of you has
7 even took the opportunity to learn our language, which is our
8 way of life. Our culture, since time immemorial, has always
9 looked at the ecosystem as one, not divided on (indiscernible)
10 of a different environment.

11 You have lied to us all of these years with
12 promises -- 'We'll make you a better life.' 'We'll give you
13 heat.' 'We'll protect your culture.' 'We'll protect your
14 people.' That's what you've been telling us. As President of
15 the Native Village of Barrow, I've seen families destroyed
16 because of what you are doing, because your laws don't work up
17 here. They're not compatible with us. Nor did you ever think
18 that there is such a thing as Inupiat law because you don't
19 know us. You're ignorant of a straight, factual technology
20 that have been -- we have been trying to bring to you because
21 your superhuman technology that you wish to only to establish a
22 way to make a buck, not to make a life.

23 You have ignored my elders when they say, 'You do
24 this, this is going to happen.' 'You change our environment,
25 you're going to pay for it, not us.' We've learned how to live

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1 in the cold. If you made it a little bit warmer, maybe we will
2 survive a little bit more, but I do not know how to clean you
3 up -- you're dirty! America right now, the world, is dirty
4 because of you, your technology, which is incomplete -- not so
5 much incomplete that you have the scientific technology. You
6 have ways to filter all this dirt that is causing cancer, your
7 AIDS.

8 Well, the global warming didn't happen by itself;
9 you're the fault of it. Before you can get out to our ocean, I
10 wish you'd take that into consideration. Clean up first! I've
11 said it before -- clean up first. You haven't learned how to
12 clean up your dirt, and we're the ones that have to suffer in
13 living with your dirt. You have given me light, you've given
14 me nice clothes, but you haven't even worried a one bit about
15 my health. What are you? I can't get like you. I can't get
16 mad at you. I don't have the power to tell you to stop, but at
17 least recognize the fact that you are dirty. You're filthy!
18 And we're having to pay for it, and here it is again.

19 You're going to make it even dirtier without the
20 technology of having to know how to clean up under the ice.
21 That under the ice and the bottom of the ocean is where the
22 ecosystem starts, not what's alive already. You run my animals
23 out of food, we're not going to have any; it ain't just going
24 to be us, it's going to be you included.

25 But I hope you don't take my cellars away 'cause I'm

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1 going to be start putting away a lot of food that is not
2 contaminated 'cause my food is going to be contaminated the
3 first time you put any oil in that ocean out there, and that
4 big ice out there doesn't stop here, it turns all the way
5 around, and it affects at least 23 countries. And if America
6 wishes to pay some royalties to those other countries, welcome
7 to them, but first give me mine so I can go ahead and clean up
8 what I got and hope to preserve what I have -- a right of
9 culture, a right of people, first the right of law, which you
10 cannot even serve me.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

13 MR. NEAKOK: (In Inupiat)

14 Last, I want to say, if the federal agencies are going
15 to be required to make an Environmental Impact Statement, you
16 must include the Inupiat's recommendations, the stipulations,
17 and recognize the Inupiat Tribal Government as government not
18 just an instrument that you use to get your own recognition.
19 We're a tribal government, and we are recognized in the
20 Lower 48 as government. Traditional governments have been born
21 before the United States, tribal governments in 1936, only to
22 contract with the United States for our protection, and it has
23 never been used.

24 We as Inupiat governments demands the agencies to do
25 exactly what the -- your federal government has asked, follow

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1 your regulation. And I'm the President of the Native Village
2 of Barrow; I speak as President of the Native Village of
3 Barrow. My members have their own words. And I give you my
4 tribal profile plus my Constitution and Charter. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

6 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Raymond.

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Martha.

8 MS. AIKEN: Good evening.

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Good evening.

10 MS. AIKEN: Welcome to Barrow.

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

12 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MARTHA AIKEN

13 What I have to say is not to be taken as a personal
14 grudge to any of you. This hearing, as any other hearings, may
15 be just another requirement for which the federal government
16 may have asked you to do, but for us as Inupiat people who had
17 always lived off of the land, this is a desperate plea. In
18 desperation, we are pleading for our cause from the depths of
19 our hearts to oppose this Lease Sale 124.

20 I am only a woman, only a wife, and only an Inupiat
21 mother, but a very concerned member of our community, so
22 concerned about the food that we eat at our tables with our
23 families, with our friends, and we share the food that we have
24 not only in our families but with whoever is in need. We
25 respect the sharing; we highly regard it. We even send food to

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1 the other areas when they are so -- when they are not so lucky
2 in catching whales.

3 We are concerned about our hunters, what they catch,
4 'cause they are in desperation sometimes when they don't catch
5 a whale. They are given a quota; they want to forget about the
6 quota and kill a whale. They put up their spear for the kill
7 but slowly puts it down because of the requirements that are
8 made to them. That's how much it hurts when you live off of
9 the land 'cause it is our garden. What the hunters catch the
10 women prepare. The men all go; they are great hunters. They
11 cannot prepare the food; the women have to do that. They even
12 go down to the cellar to get some meat for the next meal. They
13 prepare it for their use during the winter, and they collect,
14 put away all the food, put away all the skins for their use.
15 We don't use them as much as we used to, but we still do. But
16 the main important thing for us is we cannot live without
17 Eskimo food, whatever it may be.

18 There was a quota for the caribou not too long ago,
19 and today there are too many of them. Doesn't the government
20 realize that if the caribou are getting too many that their
21 food supply will be running low and they'll start dying off?
22 We are concerned about so many things. We were very concerned,
23 especially after the Exxon spill at Valdez. Soon after the
24 Valdez community members were restricted not to go near that
25 spill, we were concerned because it was in Alaska where our

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1 waters are. There's no separation between Valdez and Alaska.

2 As we talked about it, my husband said, after we had
3 listened to the radio and to the television, and my husband
4 said, 'If the government were intelligent and wise, they had
5 every opportunity and time to move that crude oil to another
6 ship, empty ship. Instead of letting that oil spill on the
7 water, they had the time, and they wouldn't be having this
8 problem now they are having after for so long.' We know that
9 they meant well when they restricted them from that ship, but
10 these were the people that lived there and they wanted to
11 volunteer to help.

12 That's why here, we want this Lease Sale 124 to be
13 stopped, because we know the pressure of the currents is very
14 strong. There is a surety of a blow-out. We'd like to have
15 this lease sale stopped before it happens, and we're begging
16 you to help us.

17 Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Beverly Hugo?

19 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF BEVERLY HUGO

20 Good evening. I'd like to extend welcoming you to
21 Barrow. Before I start, I believe that -- that each and every
22 one of you needs to know the value systems of the Inupiat
23 culture. This is what makes -- makes us who we are. And if
24 you want to mess in our homeland, you better come under our
25 banner of our value systems that makes us uniquely what we are.

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1 And -- and I believe that this past fall, I called
2 John Schindler because I had a concern. I am a mother of four
3 children, and I am also a health provider, but for most, I'm a
4 mother and a wife, and I see the impact of what it's doing to
5 our communities in the North Slope. Oil industry was supposed
6 to make our life better, and -- but overall, I think it has
7 done more harm to our culture as a -- as a group of people.
8 But I want to share you -- share with you, and I want you to
9 make note of, what they are. If you want to be under -- in our
10 homeland, in our waters, that impact us, our livelihood, our
11 lifestyle, you need to be under this banner and make sure that
12 you don't conflict with these values that we have high regard.

13 And these are values that are real important to us; to
14 me, this is what makes me who I am. And the knowledge of the
15 language, our Inupiat language, is a real high one; sharing
16 with others, respect for others; we respect other people; and
17 cooperation; and respect for elders; love for children; hard
18 work; knowledge of our family tree; avoiding conflict; respect
19 for nature; spirituality; humor; our family roles. Hunter
20 success is a big one, and domestic skills, responsibility for
21 our tribe, humility.

22 These are some of the values that are -- that we
23 have -- that make us who we are, and these values have
24 co-existed for thousands of years, and they are good values,
25 and maybe it's about time that some of the oil industry or the

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1 United States government start to recognize these things. You
2 know, these have kept us in balance with other people, with our
3 land, and with the animals that we hunt. And these are good
4 values, and if you are going to be in our homeland, or in the
5 circumpolar region, we are of a same group, the Inuits -- Inuit
6 people of the circumpolar region, we have these same values.
7 And if anybody is going to be drilling out in our Beaufort Sea
8 or Chukchi Sea, they have no business out there 'cause it's our
9 business.

10 And -- but I want to share -- share some of the social
11 ills that have impacted us since the oil industry. And the oil
12 industry was supposed to have been good for us, but to me, it
13 has not been good for us because it has taken a lot of -- it
14 has put our cultural society in much disarray, and money is not
15 everything. Progress in the name of progress? Progress for
16 who? It's not benefiting the Inupiat people, and I -- I myself
17 don't want to be a victim of progress. I want to be a victor
18 of progress. I want -- and I don't welcome or support
19 Sale 124. It is no option; it is a death sentence for the
20 Inupiat nation.

21 Through the Inuit circumpolar region and the social
22 ills, I -- I called on John Schindler because there are so many
23 of our youth that are troubled, trouble where they are so down
24 and distraught, where they want to end their lives, or they're
25 so messed up on drugs and alcohol they harm others or

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1 themselves. And you can't mess with the cultural fabric of a
2 society because it -- it's detrimental; it's genocidal. If you
3 are not of our group, you have no business in our homeland
4 unless you come under our banner, under our value system.

5 And I -- we have been promised that there are funds
6 available for NPRA. When I asked John Schindler, Is there such
7 funds like that? For we have so many youths, young people,
8 that are just giving up, succumbing to alcohol and drugs. And
9 I did not bring my children into this world to that
10 predicament, and I must speak for them because it affects us.
11 You may be in your office and -- but it impacts us daily; every
12 family unit has been impacted and touched. It may have bring
13 warmth (sic), but we were warm in other ways.

14 And I really believe that there's some good in every
15 person or every culture, and I want you to think about this
16 seriously, that Sale 124 is no option, it's a -- it's no
17 option, period. And it should never happen because of the many
18 lives it'll touch. A hunter's success is -- depends in -- on
19 the -- in the ocean, a lot of the sea mammals, and if it's
20 tainted or the sea mammals -- what are we going to eat, thrive
21 from?

22 As a health provider, we are knowing that -- we are
23 finding out that Native foods are the best source of food for
24 nourishment, and people that -- cultural groups that have left
25 their Native diet are under the predicament of diabetes, which

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1 is a slow death. And people don't realize that when they mess
2 with people's metabolism or their body nourishment, that
3 changing their food or their diet is detrimental. It's a slow
4 death. And we depend real highly on whale and all the sea
5 mammals that everybody has talked about this evening, and they
6 are good, nourishing foods that we need to sustain our -- our
7 bodies.

8 And I thank you for the opportunity to testify, but
9 Sale 124 is no option, and I strongly stress that. And thank
10 you.

11 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Martha.

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Anthony Edwardson?

13 MS. AIKEN: He's gone.

14 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: He left?

15 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: He left.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: The last one is Charles.

17 MR. OKAKOK: Okakok.

18 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF CHARLES OKAKOK

19 Who am I speaking to? Barry Boudreau? Who's the --
20 Barry Boudreau?

21 MR. BOUDREAU: Yes, that's correct.

22 MR. OKAKOK:

23 MR. PALMER: Right.

24 MR. OKAKOK: Bob Brock?

25 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yes, sir.

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1 MR. OKAKOK: John Schindler.

2 MR. SCHINDLER: You know me.

3 MR. OKAKOK: Have you all had basic biology? And I
4 just want to -- have you all had basic biology?

5 MR. SCHINDLER: Yes.

6 MR. OKAKOK: Basic biology, I remember in high school,
7 each ecosystem has a cycle of life, I believe. It's a cycle --
8 continuous cycle, and once that -- there's a chain within that
9 cycle that keeps going around and around, each animal, each --
10 some little animal here and there, and once that chain breaks,
11 the -- I believe what they said, the ecosystem goes awry is --
12 I think is what their words are in biology.

13 And since I'm opposed to this Sale 124 for -- I
14 just -- I just had a son, and the bowheads go through here, and
15 I'm -- I do a lot of whaling too, every year, every chance I
16 get -- I get to go out, and I'd like my son to be able to go
17 out and hunt whale and not grow up with just hamburger and all
18 that -- Quarter Pounders and stuff like that.

19 But what I'm saying is basic biology taught me that
20 this -- once this chain breaks, there's -- the other animals
21 are going to die off too; if one dies off, the others are going
22 to die off also, as each of you might know, you know, because
23 you say you've taken biology.

24 I -- and this ecosystem up here is kind of unique in
25 its way too, and we have pristine waters, of which you know.

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1 Once you take the black plankton off, maybe even noise can kill
2 the plankton. If -- I haven't seen your study, but noise --
3 whales keep away from noise, as I seen when -- it's been two
4 falls now that I've went whaling, on fall season, and the year
5 before there was -- I seen a quite a few whales. And this
6 year, we were whaling near a ship, and there was no whales in
7 sight. The only whales that they spotted were the gray whales,
8 which we weren't after, we were after bowhead whales.

9 I -- so in -- I'm against this Sale 124. It's -- I
10 just wanted to say I'm just against it.

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. The last one
12 that's registered is John George.

13 MR. GEORGE: Thank you.

14 (Whispered comment)

15 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF JOHN GEORGE

16 I'm John George, and I work with the Department of
17 Wildlife Management, and my principal duties in my eight years
18 of working for the Borough have been bowhead whale studies. I
19 just wanted to make it -- a couple points.

20 The section on the effects of oil spill on bowheads, I
21 was glad to see that it incorporated a few things that we had
22 mentioned earlier in other comments from previous lease sales;
23 that is that noise is a potentially detri- -- it does affect
24 the animals. And there's a nice treatment there in that
25 recognition of the skin of the animal is not necessarily smooth

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1 in all cases and that there are these roughened areas that oil
2 could adhere to.

3 There's something that we've more recently -- I hate
4 to use the word 'discovered' but -- become aware of is that,
5 through examination of landed whales, we have evidence that --
6 of two whales that have been -- had collisions with large
7 ships, and that data is not published. I presented a paper on
8 that at the -- on the Fifth Conference of the Bowhead Whale,
9 and these two animals showed, in one case, a large area of
10 evulsed tissue off the flukes, and in another case, there was
11 screw marks down the one side of an animal. The incidence is
12 low, but if we can use North Atlantic white whales as a model
13 of what the effects of increased industrial activity or
14 shipping activity, let's say, associated with a lease sale
15 might be, the researchers working with North Atlantic whites
16 think that perhaps that ship collisions may be the most
17 significant source of man-induced mortality on that particular
18 group and even think that it may be preventing the population
19 from recovering despite protection from hunting for over 70
20 years, I believe.

21 So that's something that should be treated in the EIS
22 that -- the connection is -- the scenario might be that with
23 increased activity offshore, there'd be increased ship traffic
24 and a greater potential of collisions with whales, particularly
25 if ships were using lead systems, which I assume they would

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1 if -- because, obviously, they would be more navigable than
2 moving through pack ice for instance.

3 In terms of the assessment of the effect of an oil
4 spill on the stock, the risk was considered to be low; however,
5 it seems to me -- I'm generally not an alarmist, but it seems
6 to me that you have as all -- all the -- you have a perfect
7 situation to really effect this -- the entire herd in a
8 dramatic way should somehow oil get into the spring lead system
9 near here. In 1988 when we did a census, 95 percent of the
10 whales, what we think is the entire population, went through
11 was -- in roughly a two- to three-week period, it was a -- what
12 we consider a pretty accelerated migration. Generally, we
13 start seeing whales about now and end of June, and it's roughly
14 bell-shaped through that and peaking in mid-May. However, in
15 '88 and in '87, for some reason, the animal- -- well, there's a
16 nice open lead system, and they all chugged through in a pretty
17 rapid matter.

18 So in other words, if you had oil in the lead in a
19 situation like that for even a week or two, you could
20 significantly affect potentially the entire herd. So that
21 should be pointed out. And that'll be published in an IWC
22 paper that is in press at the moment. We did an analysis where
23 we showed the percent counted by 15 May for -- from 1976 to '88.

24 Anyway, let's see. I guess those are the two main
25 things. The -- as I said, the -- some of the information on

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1 ship collisions is in an abstract.

2 MR. SCHINDLER: Is that going to be published very
3 quickly, John, that.....

4 MR. GEORGE: Apparently, it is. We're going to try
5 and turn it around in a rapid manner and have something to pass
6 out by June.

7 MR. SCHINDLER: You could send us an abstract.

8 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

9 MR. SCHINDLER: I'd sure like to get it to the panel.

10 MR. GEORGE: I really think that's something worth
11 considering. And Scott Crouse (ph) did a very nice summary of
12 the work on the North Atlantic white whales and examined
13 strandings, and he shows pretty conclusively that ship
14 collisions and -- are a serious problem for these types of
15 whales, white whales in general. They tend to be -- when
16 they're in these social aggregations on the surface, they, for
17 some reason, become unaware of approaching vessels, and there
18 was some dramatic footage shown at the last conference where
19 they nosed a vessel right up to one of these groups of
20 socializing, breeding animals, and they were -- it was as if
21 they were completely unaware of the presence of the ship. And
22 what they think is, during these periods, that collisions
23 are -- would be strictly, you know, a random event, and it'd
24 just be a matter of the probability of the ship and the whale
25 being in the same place at the same time.

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1 So I think there's -- similar things have been seen
2 with socializing bowheads in the Eastern Beaufort, or they've
3 been -- well, they've allowed ships to approach rather
4 closely. So that's all. We can all go to bed now.

5 MR. SCHINDLER: No, we've got two more.

6 MR. GEORGE: Oh, oh. I see.

7 (Simultaneous speech)

8 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: But I'm going to have to take
9 a five-minute break. Okay?

10 (Off record)

11 (On record)

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Reconvene here. Benfer
13 Simmonds?

14 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF BENFER SIMMONDS

15 Yes. My name is Benfer Simmonds. And do you guys got
16 any instrument down there that you guys know if there is oil
17 down there offshore?

18 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I didn't hear.

19 MR. SIMMONDS: What I mean is, Do you guys know that
20 there is oil down there?

21 MR. BOUDREAU: Do we know if there's oil down there,
22 are you asking?

23 MR. SIMMONDS: Yes.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: No.

25 MR. BOUDREAU: No. There's no.....

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1 (Simultaneous speech)
2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Not for sure.
3 MR. BOUDREAU:guarantee there's oil.
4 MR. SIMMONDS: Okay. If you guys do find oil, what
5 you guys should be able to do is think of the consequences is
6 to build something like a manmade island. You guys should be
7 able to know that the ice can be able to break off that steel
8 just like toothpick. And if it snaps and you guys find oil,
9 you will just -- we won't have nothing to eat but just you
10 white man's food, which doesn't satisfy us at all.
11 But so what I'm saying is that you guys should be able
12 to tell the oil companies, tell them that they should think
13 ahead for what consequences will be able to happen if they do
14 find oil. If there's no oil down there, it's -- you guys -- we
15 know we don't have all the knowledge and money to make our own
16 oil companies and to work on those trucks. We -- if we had the
17 money and everything, we would planned (sic) ahead.
18 Whatever happens, I just hope that you guys would
19 realize what will happen if they do find oil. I just hope that
20 they cut out that 124 document. And that's -- I believe that's
21 all I got to say.
22 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.
23 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Benfer.
24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Douglas Edwardson?
25 / / /

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF DOUGLAS EDWARDSON

1
2 My name is Douglas Edwardson, and I've been born and
3 raised here, and I sure am against that Beaufort Sea Sale 124.
4 I'm against it -- well, I'm against any kind of progress,
5 so-called progress, you guys have up here. I don't see how
6 it -- for Arctic land, maybe you call it progress, but it's our
7 decline. Are you our source? Are you? Are you are source?
8 Compromises, compromises. What are you guys campaigning for?
9 That's how we are up here, just compromises. Oh, I'm going
10 to -- oh, I know how to do it. Oh, I -- but that's all we've
11 been hearing. And I'd just ask -- want to ask you if you are
12 my source. Will you provide for me?

13 And we were doing all right before you guys came up
14 here. That guy's been brainwashed, away from our culture.
15 Well, you -- and you call it progress. Been brainwashed, had
16 to learn -- learn that in school, where to get
17 pre-disciplined. We're speaking in our own language going to
18 school. That's what you call the lost identity. We're the
19 last -- we're getting pretty lost up here.

20 I know you guys are the almighty conquerors, and I
21 believe that's your culture. We are -- we're part of or own
22 culture up here and our way of life. I know you guys are
23 almighty, and you guys just run folks down, run them over, take
24 over their livelihood. And that's what you are about to do up
25 here. Pretty soon, there'll be no more Inupiat people because

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1 of the almighty conquerors. Sure, we know your way and
2 ignorant of your devices.

3 And -- but I'm just here to say that I'm against that
4 Beaufort Sea Sale 124. Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

6 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Douglas.

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Anybody that we missed?

8 (No response)

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: If not.....

10 MR. GEORGE EDWARDSON: Excuse me. You didn't miss me,
11 but I never did get a copy of your Draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement which you (indiscernible) and turned into a final.
13 Is there any way we can get copies? I'd need at least eight
14 sets so I can give them to my traditional councils and my IRA
15 Council from the North.

16 MR. ROBERTS: We'll ship them to you as soon as we get
17 back.

18 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We'll call tomorrow and have
19 them sent out tomorrow.

20 MR. ROBERTS: Oh, okay. We'll do that.

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We'll call the office tomorrow
22 and have them sent out. Eight?

23 MR. EDWARDSON: Yeah.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: And you want them sent to you?

25 MR. SCHINDLER: Eight sets.

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1 MR. EDWARDSON: I need eight 'cause I have eight
2 communities, and they all have to have that even though it's
3 pretty much started out pretty late, and from what I can
4 understand from looking at one book you had over there, it was
5 a Draft EIS Statement which would all of a sudden turn into a
6 final with a red pen.

7 MR. SCHINDLER: That's my copy. I was marking on
8 there corrections that have to be made for the final. So this
9 is still the draft.

10 MR. EDWARDSON: Okay.

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Now, this is the draft, and
12 it.....

13 MR. EDWARDSON: And what's our limit for written
14 comments?

15 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: May the 8th.

16 MR. EDWARDSON: May the 8th? Now.....

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Right. Now, if we get
18 comments after that, we'll still use them if we can, but we
19 can't be assure- -- or we can't assure you that we'll get them
20 in the final EIS if the.....

21 MR. EDWARDSON: Yeah. You've made the comment period
22 where all our communities that are whaling communities are out
23 in the ocean and don't have time to make any written comments.
24 We'll all be out in the ocean; Point Hope's already out there.
25 And then very soon, Wainwright'll be out there and so will we.

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1 Now, you've taken us off our subsistent lifestyles in order to
2 comply with your paper needs, and that's -- you know, you're
3 not going to get much comments with people having to go out to
4 obtain their food.

5 MR. SCHINDLER: When the comments come in late, if we
6 can't get them in the EIS, they're used in the notices of sale
7 to comment at that stage. So.....

8 MR. RAYMOND NEAKOK: (Inaudible).....

9 (Simultaneous speech)

10 MR. SCHINDLER:they are not ignored.

11 MR. NEAKOK:so late it's -- it'd be too late to
12 do anything with them.

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: No, they would still be used
14 in the final decision, but the -- they might not appear in the
15 final EIS, and they might not be answered in the final EIS, of
16 course, if they.....

17 MR. SCHINDLER: Raymond, saw these -- or some of the
18 Kaktovik and Nuiqsut got their copies already, and Barrow got
19 their copies, but we did not ship them to Point Hope or
20 Wainwright.

21 MR. EDWARDSON: They definitely need them because the
22 animals that you will affect does affect all of us on the
23 coast. We're all subsistence users.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Do we have your address?

25 MR. SCHINDLER: No. This is.....

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1 MR. EDWARDSON: He's got the address.

2 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Oh, okay. Okay. We'll make
3 sure that we get it -- we'll call the office tomorrow and get
4 them sent out tomorrow to you.

5 MR. EDWARDSON: Okay. Very good.

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. We started at -- I
7 believe it was about 7:45 this evening, and it's now 12:30, and
8 we'll close this hearing. Thank you all for coming.

9 (Off record)

10 (Whereupon, the proceedings in the above-entitled
11 matter were adjourned at 12:30 a.m.)
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EXECUTARY

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Cindy S. Carl
Cindy S. Carl, CCR

5/2/90
Date

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